ALIENS™ GENOCIDE

3 OF 4 $2.50 U.S. $3.00 Canada

DARK HORSE COMICS

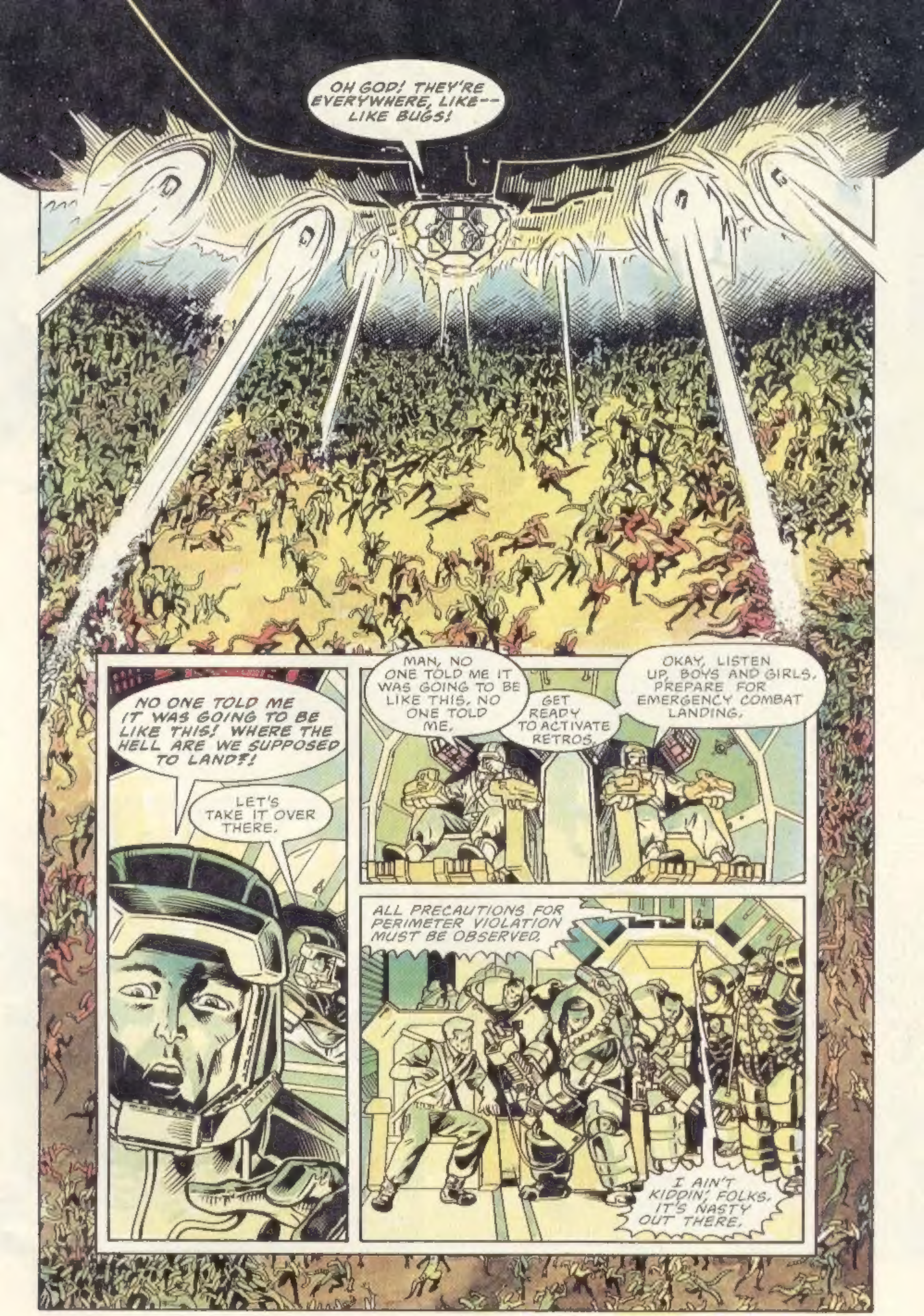
DARK HORSE COMICS

5 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

STORY: MIKE RICHARDSON • SCRIPT: JOHN ARCUDI • PENCILLER: DAMON WILLIS
INKER: KARL STORY • LETTERER: JIM MASSARA • EDITOR: BARBARA KESEL
COVER ARTIST & COLORIST: ARTHUR SUYDAM

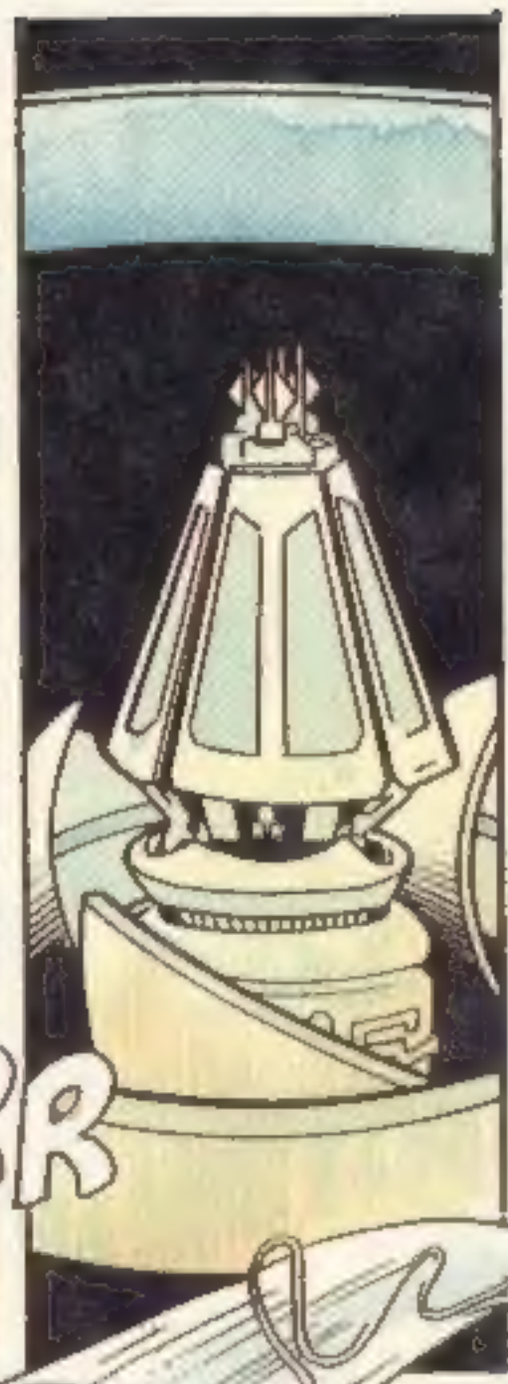
PUBLISHER: MIKE RICHARDSON • VICE-PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS: NEIL HANKERSON • MARKETING DIRECTOR: BOB SCHRECK • MARKETING ASSISTANT: KRIS YOUNG
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: RANDY STRADLEY • MANAGING EDITOR: BARBARA KESEL • EDITORIAL STAFF: ANINA BENNETT, JERRY PROSSER, DIANA SCHUTZ, CHRIS WARNER • ART DIRECTOR: CECE CUTSFORTH • PRODUCTION MANAGER: CHRIS CHALENOR • PRODUCTION: STEVEN BIRCH, CARY GRAZZINI, RAY GRUEN, CAROLYN MEGYESI, GREG PEARSON, JACK POLLOCK, STEVE POSEY, MONTY SHELDON, SEAN TIERNEY • CONTROLLER: BRAD HORN • OPERATIONS: DEBBIE BYRD, CHRIS CREVISTON, TIFFANY SCHLOBOHM

ALIENS: GENOCIDE #3 (OF 4), JANUARY, 1992. PUBLISHED BY DARK HORSE COMICS, INC., 10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OREGON, 97222. ALIENS™ & © 1992 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. ALIENS IS A TRADEMARK OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS FOR ALIENS: GENOCIDE #3 ARE © 1992 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. ALL OTHER MATERIAL, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, IS © 1992 DARK HORSE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE STORIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CHARACTERS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL. NO PORTION OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED, BY ANY MEANS, WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION AND DARK HORSE COMICS, INC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

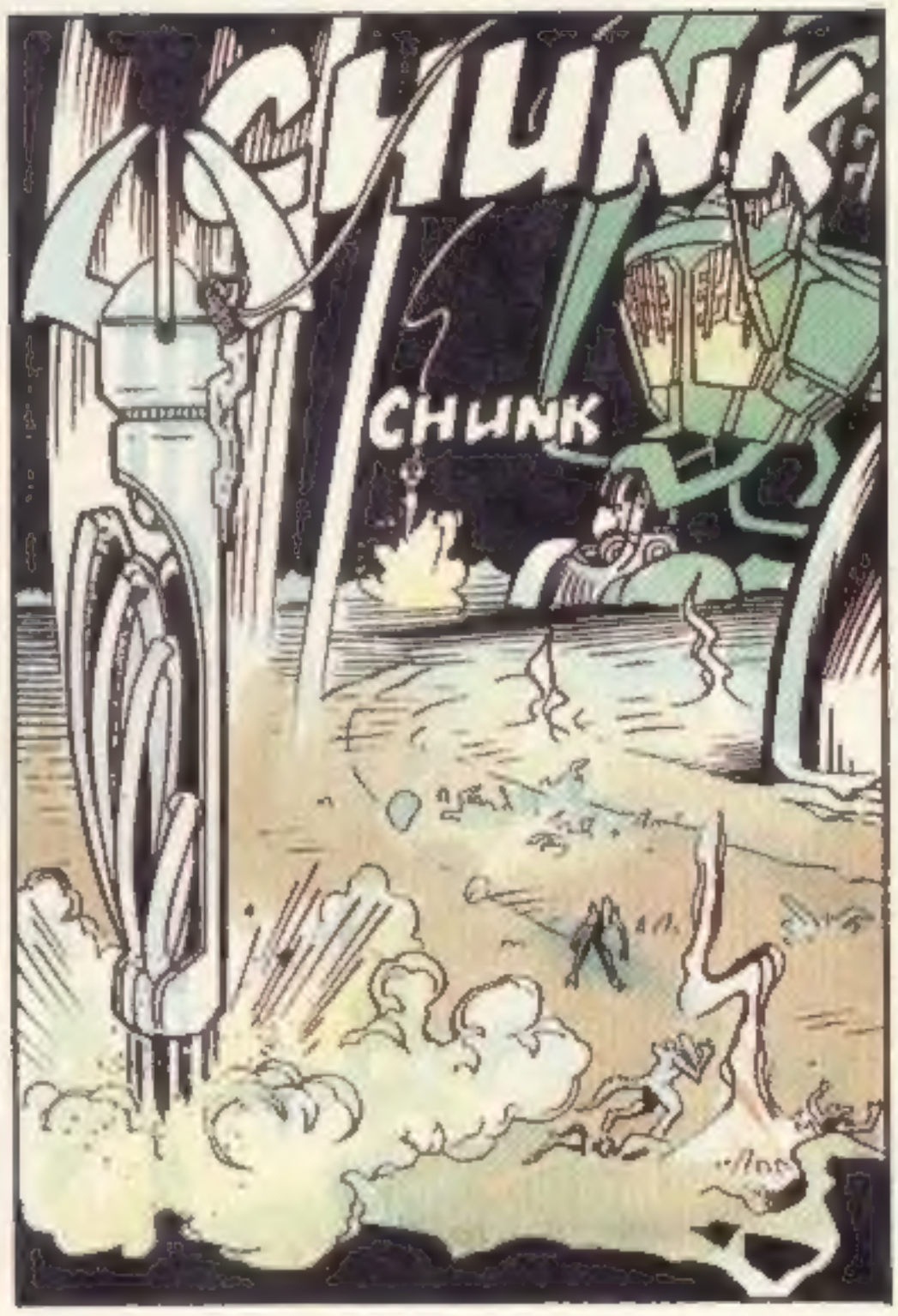

OH GOD! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, LIKE-- LIKE BUGS!
NO ONE TOLD ME IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS! WHERE THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LAND?!
LET'S TAKE IT OVER THERE.
MAN, NO ONE TOLD ME IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS, NO ONE TOLD ME.
GET READY TO ACTIVATE RETROS.
OKAY, LISTEN UP, BOYS AND GIRLS, PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY COMBAT LANDING.
ALL PRECAUTIONS FOR PERIMETER VIOLATION MUST BE OBSERVED.
I AIN'T KIDDIN', FOLKS. IT'S NASTY OUT THERE.

RRRRRRRRRRR

WHIRRR

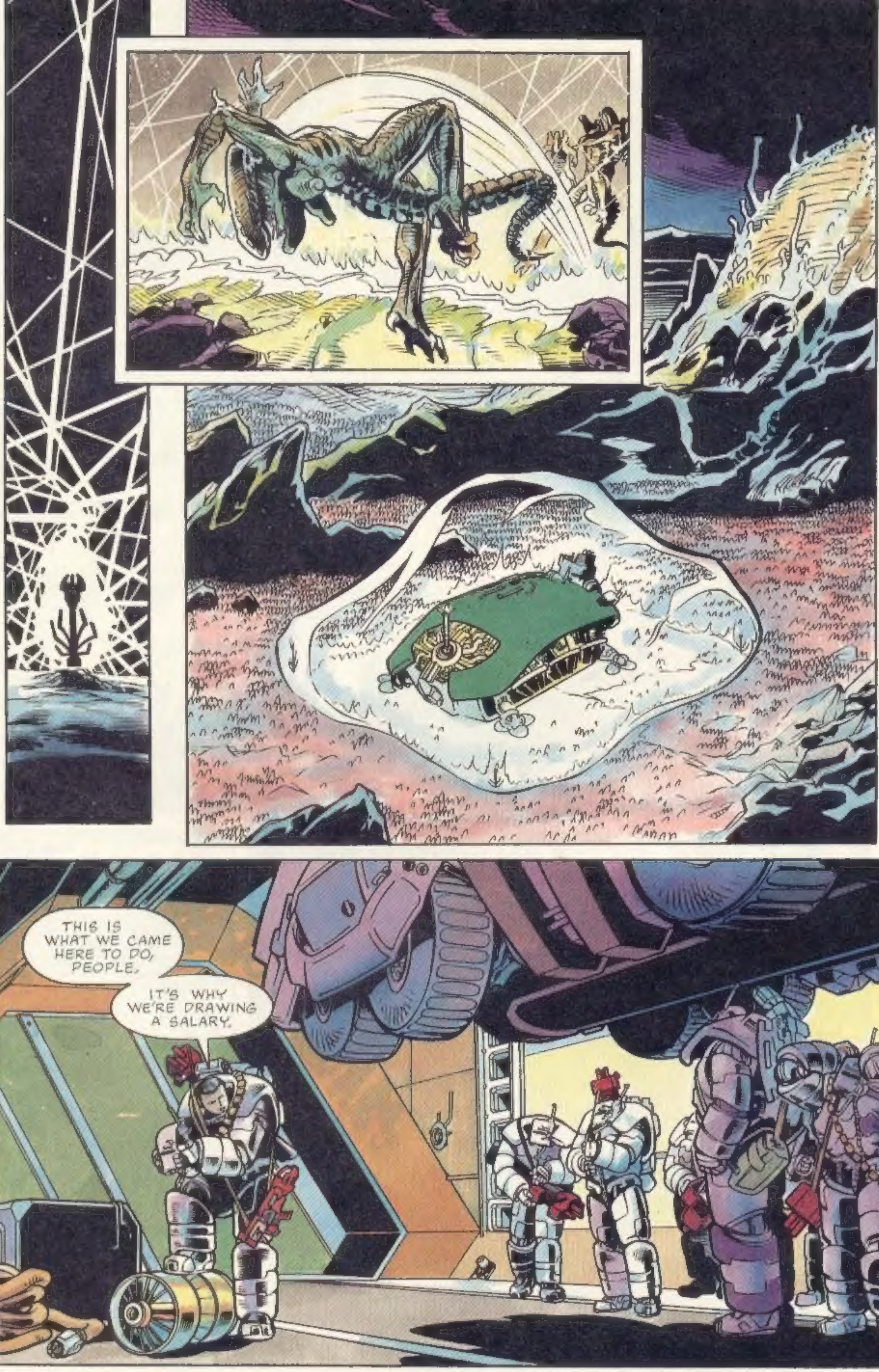


POOM!


CHUNK
CHUNK

CLINK

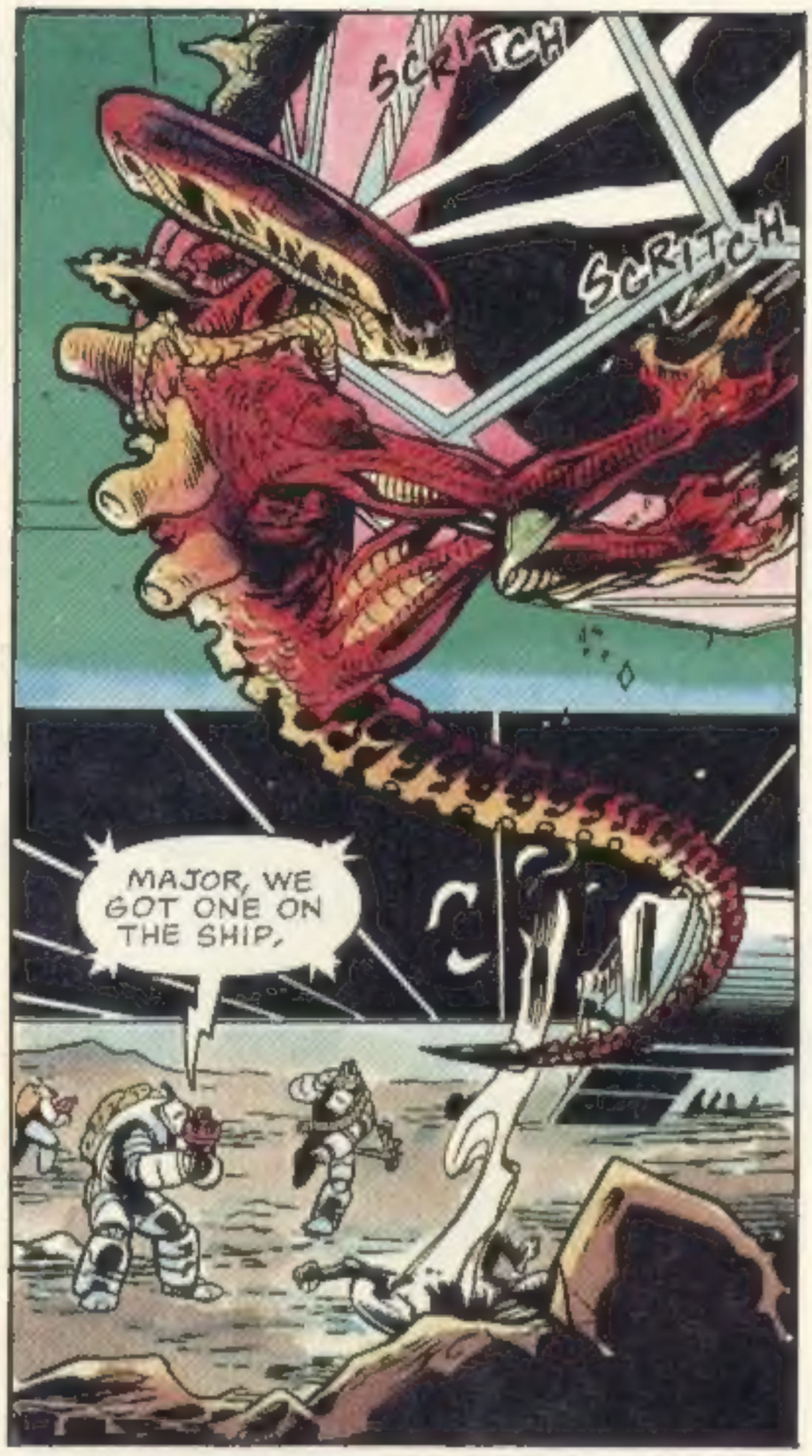
SPEED IT UP, O'CONNOR. THE ENEMY IS CLOSING IN.
OUTWALL ACTIVATION HAS BEEN INITIATED.
CLACK

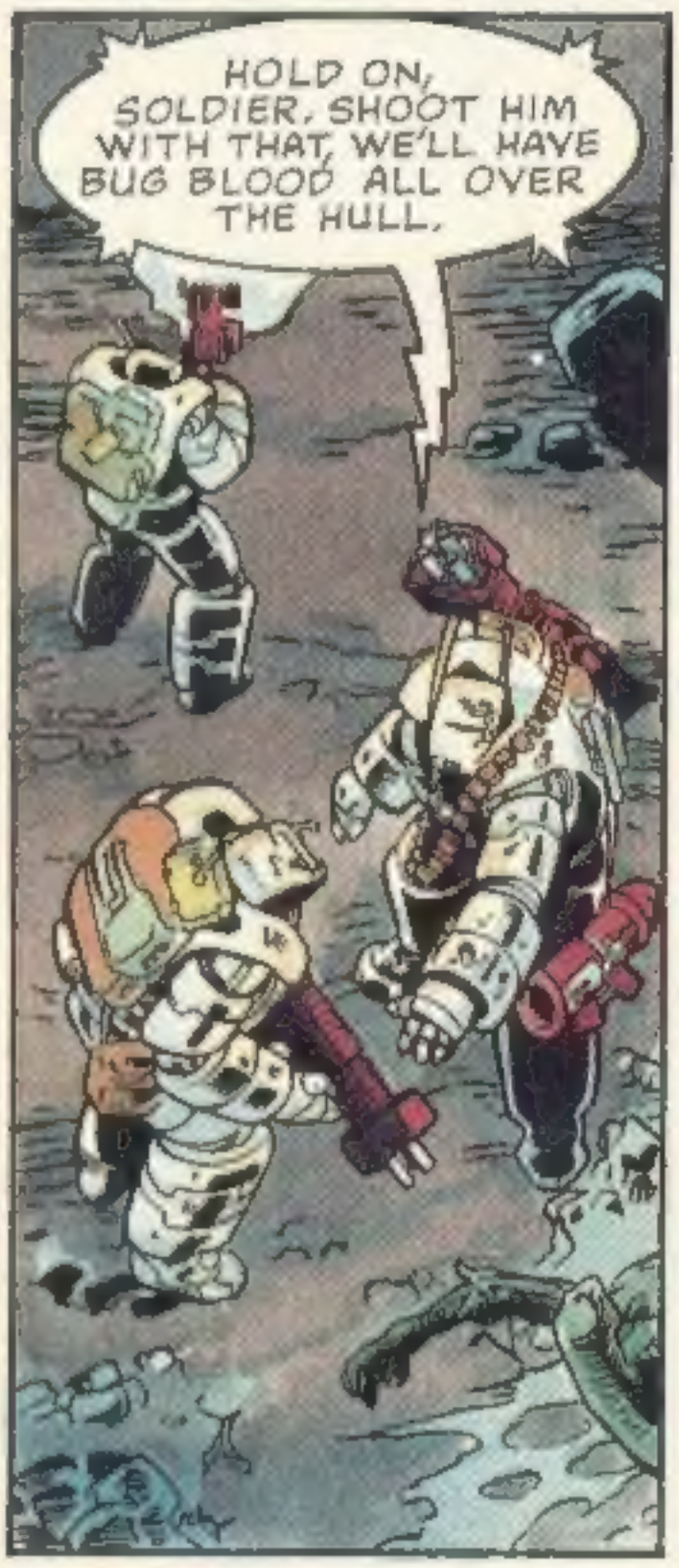

THIS IS WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO, PEOPLE.
IT'S WHY WE'RE DRAWING A SALARY.

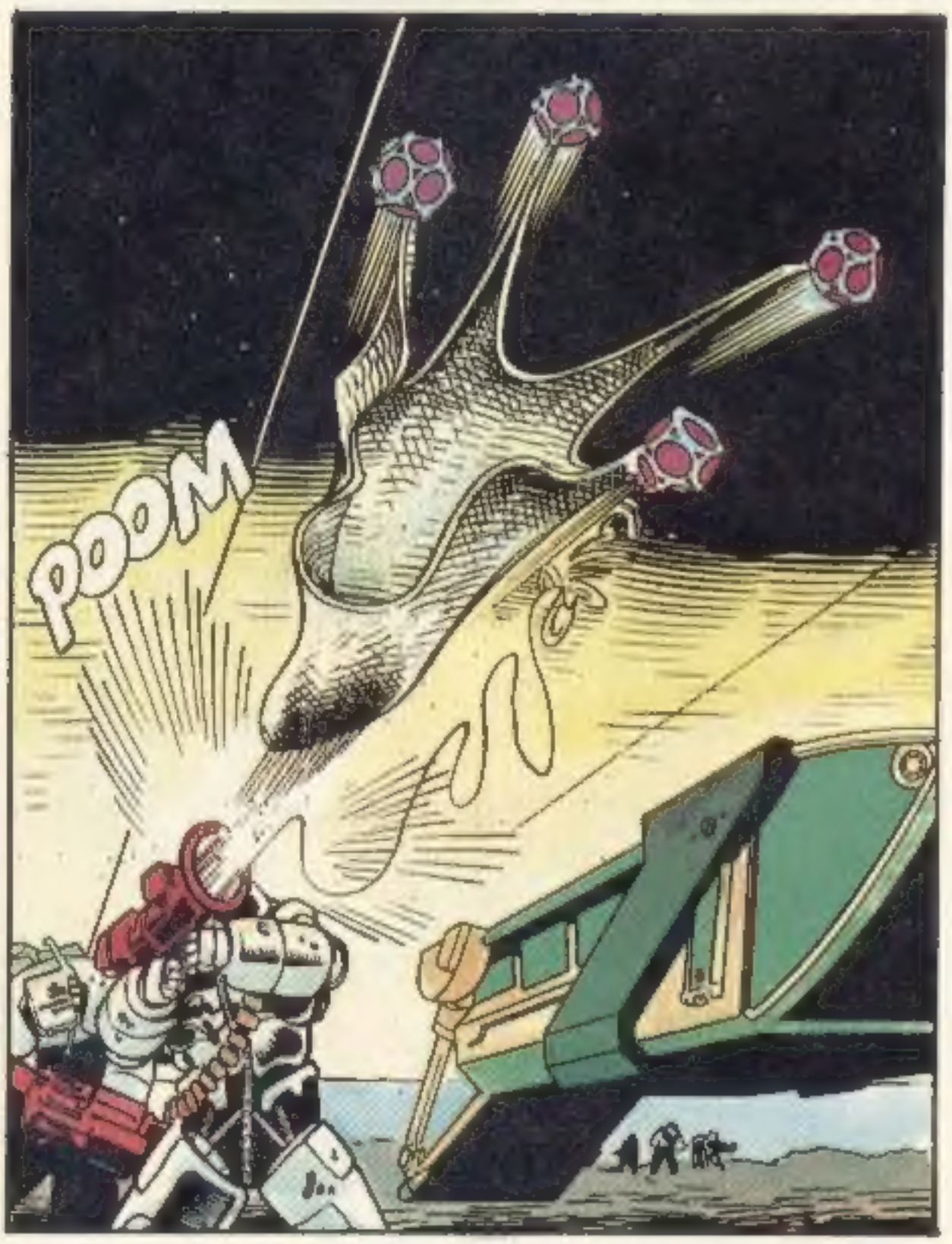
SO LET'S MAKE SOME MONEY!!!

POW POW POW

"HE'S A REGULAR ONE-MAN ARMY."



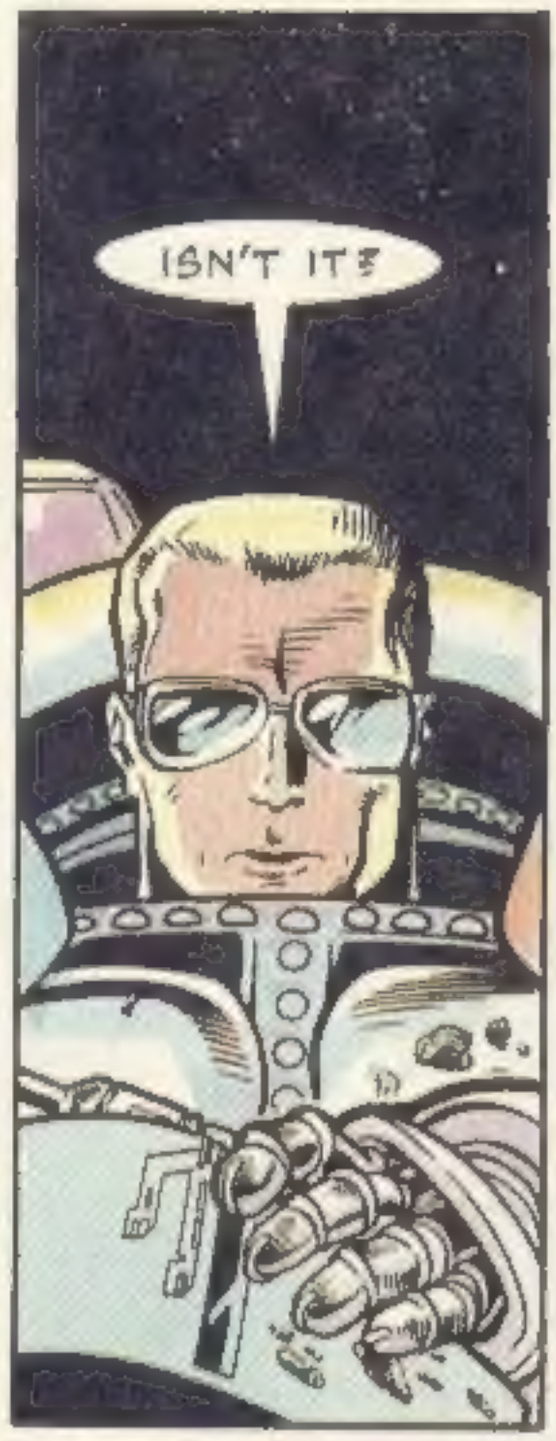




ZZZZZZZZZZZT!

WHUMP!

SORRY, MAJOR, BUT THIS IS A TAKE-NO-PRISONERS OPERATION.


ISN'T IT?

THAT WASN'T SO BAD. NOT TOO BAD AT ALL.
HELL, THIS OPERATION'S GONNA BE A CINCH!
YEAH...

RIGHT.

IN A FEW HOURS, TWIN SUNS BREACH THE ALIEN HORIZON.

A FAR CRY FROM HOME, BUT IT'S THE FIRST DAYLIGHT THIS CREW HAS SEEN IN MONTHS, AND IT WILL DO.

SO *THESE* WILL SHOOT HIGH EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS INTO THE CREATURES AND CLEAR SOME GROUND?

RIGHT. THEN ONE OF THESE FIRES THE PERIMETER EXTENSION HARPOON INTO THE CLEARED AREA.

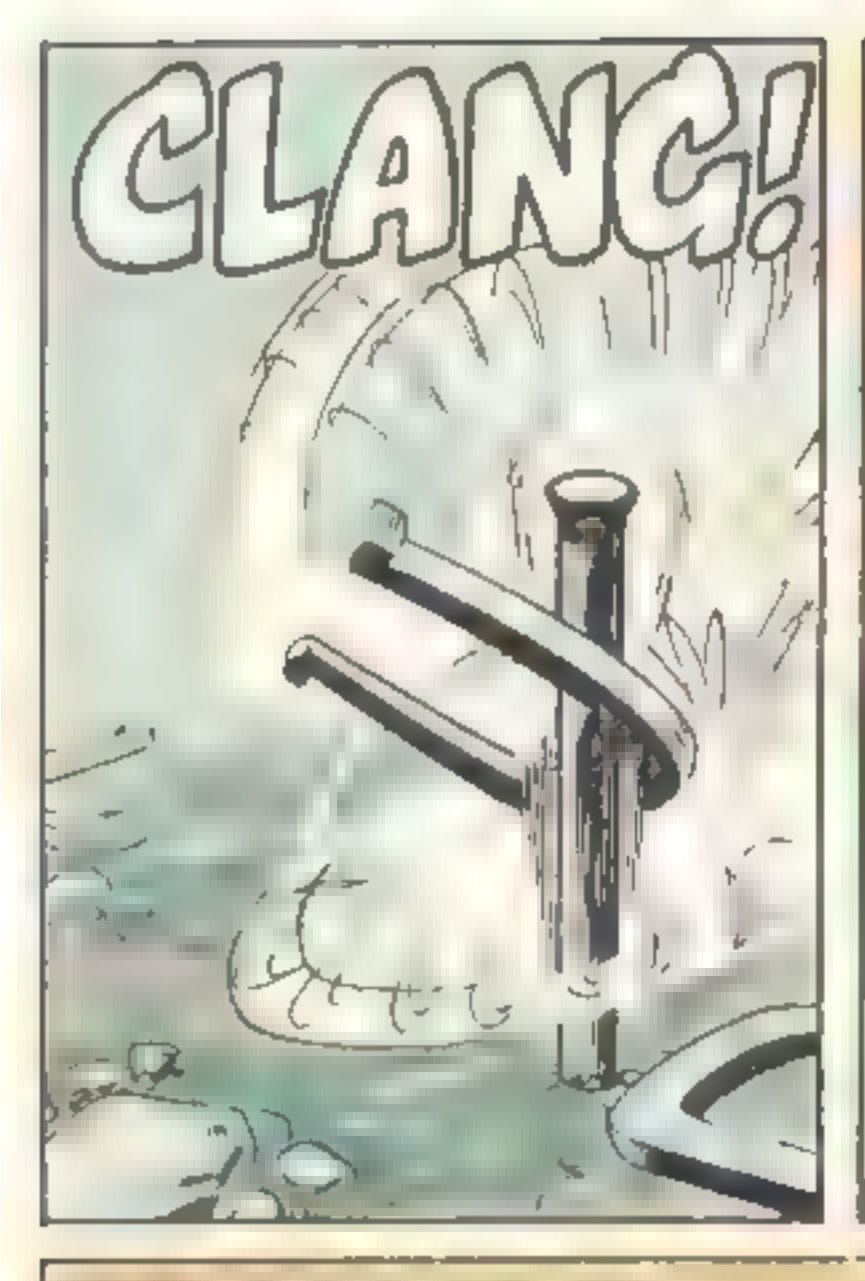
SHOULD COME OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.

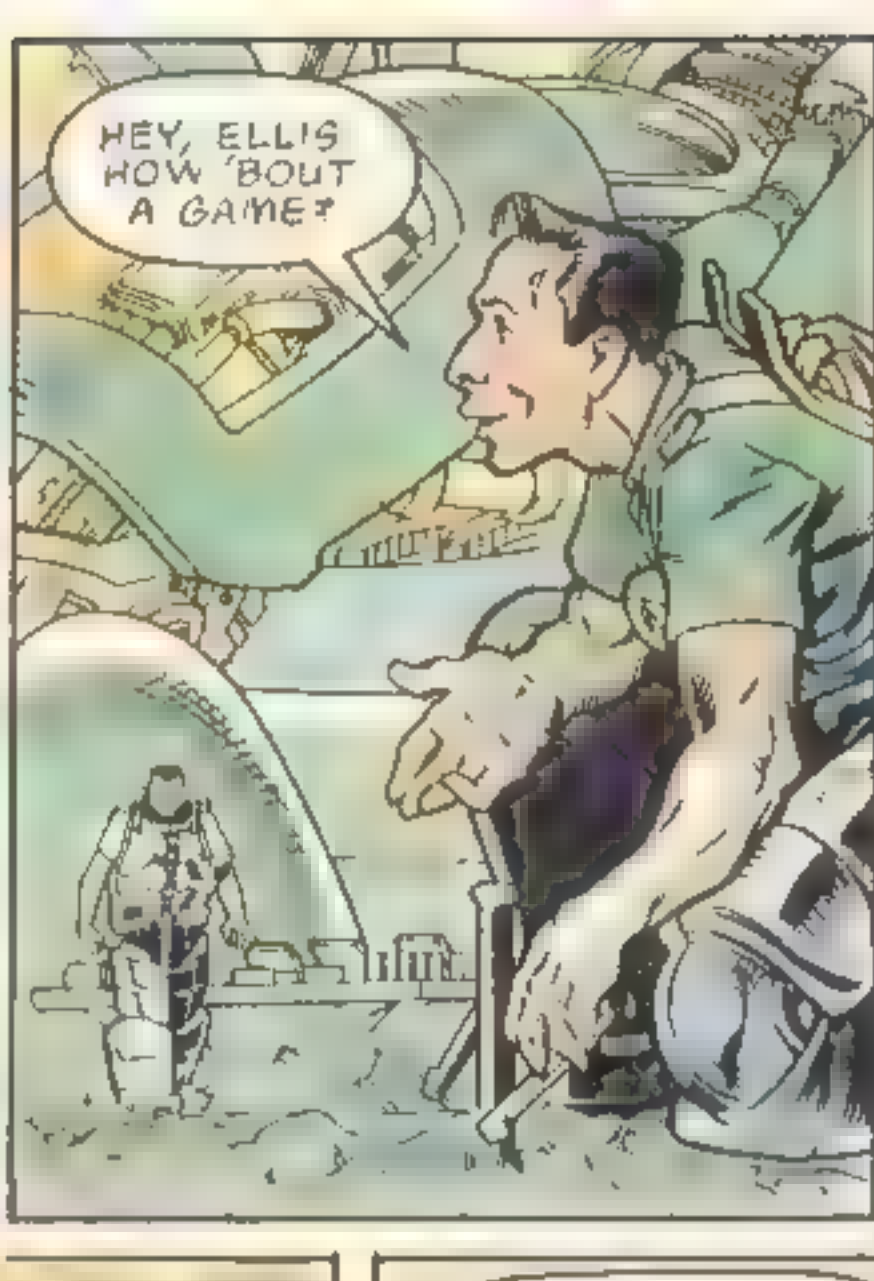
HMMMM. WITHOUT A HITCH.

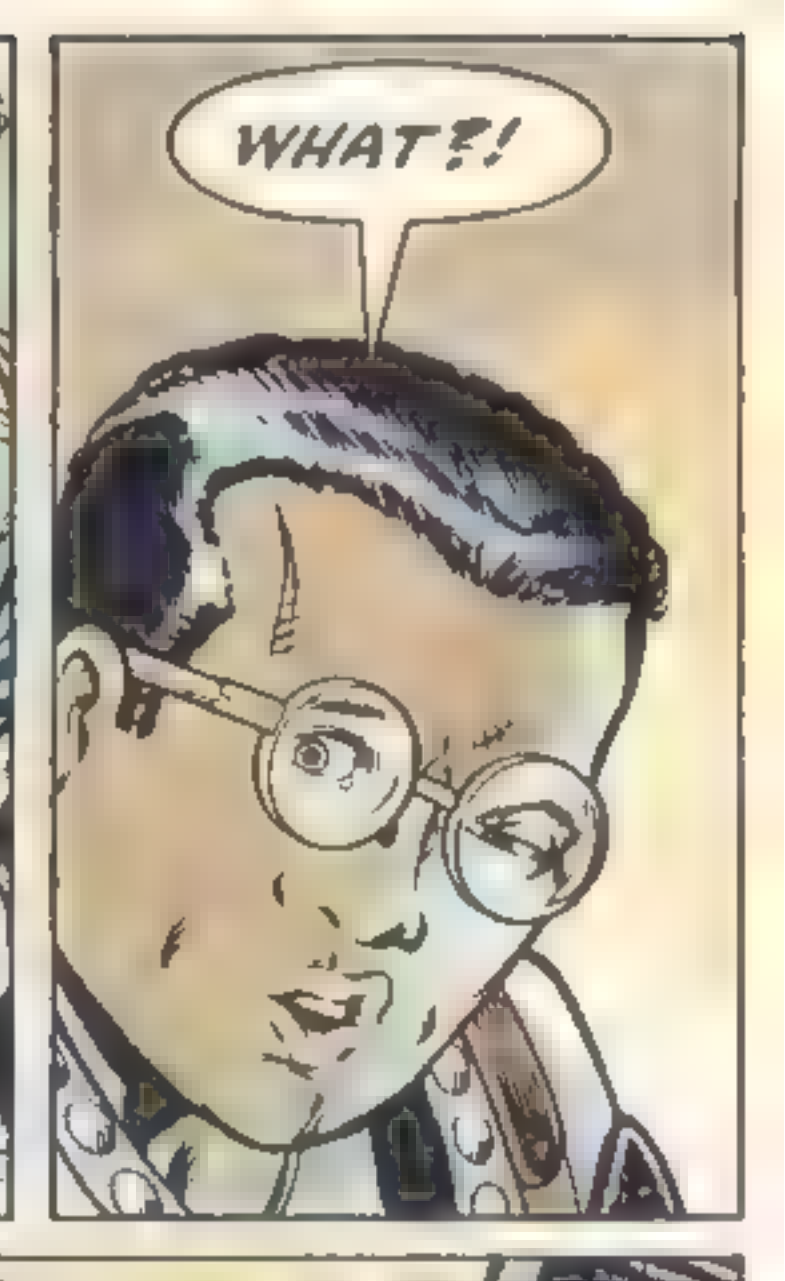
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT I PROMISED YOUR COMMANDERS BEFORE WE STARTED THIS TRIP.

HISSSSSS

AND NOW LOOK WHERE WE ARE.


CLANG!


HEY, ELLIS HOW 'BOUT A GAME?


WHAT?!

HOW THE HELL CAN YOU PLAY HORSESHOES WITH THAT JUST A FEW FEET AWAY?!
AHH, C'MON, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THEY CAN'T GET THROUGH THE OUTWALL.
MY ONLY COMPLAINT IS YOU CAN STILL SMELL 'EM.

MAKES IT PRETTY TOUGH TO EAT MY LUNCH.
NO THEY CAN'T GET IN HERE, BUT PRETTY SOON, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO OUT THERE!
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I'D SAY THEY'RE READY FOR ONE HELL OF A FIGHT!

THAT'S ANOTHER THING. WHY ARE THEY BEATING ON *EACH OTHER?*

WHO CARES!

BACK ON EARTH, THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO KILL US FOR MONTHS.

"PERSONALLY, I'M ENJOYING THE VIEW."

THAT CORPORAL HENRIKSEN IS ONE AMAZING SOLDIER.

I LIKE TO THINK ALL OF MY PEOPLE ARE, MR. GRANT.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO SLIGHT ANY OF YOUR TROOPS, MAJOR.

I JUST SINGLE HIM OUT BECAUSE OF WHAT I HEARD THE OTHER NIGHT.

HAH! YOU MEAN JASTROW'S COMMENTS ABOUT HIS BEING A SYNTH?

UH, NO. I MEANT WHAT HENRIKSEN SAID ABOUT BEING SENSITIVE TO THIS STUFF.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HIM MORE FEROCIOUS THAN HE WAS THIS MORNING.

SO YOU DON'T THINK HENRIKSEN IS--

ISN'T THAT JASTROW'S XENO-Z P?

HUH? OH YEAH. I MEANT TO GIVE IT BACK TO HIM.

"BUT JUDGING FROM HIS BEHAVIOR...

OH, SHIT! CHECK IT OUT! HIS HEAD CAME RIGHT OFF!

"HE DOESN'T NEED ANY."

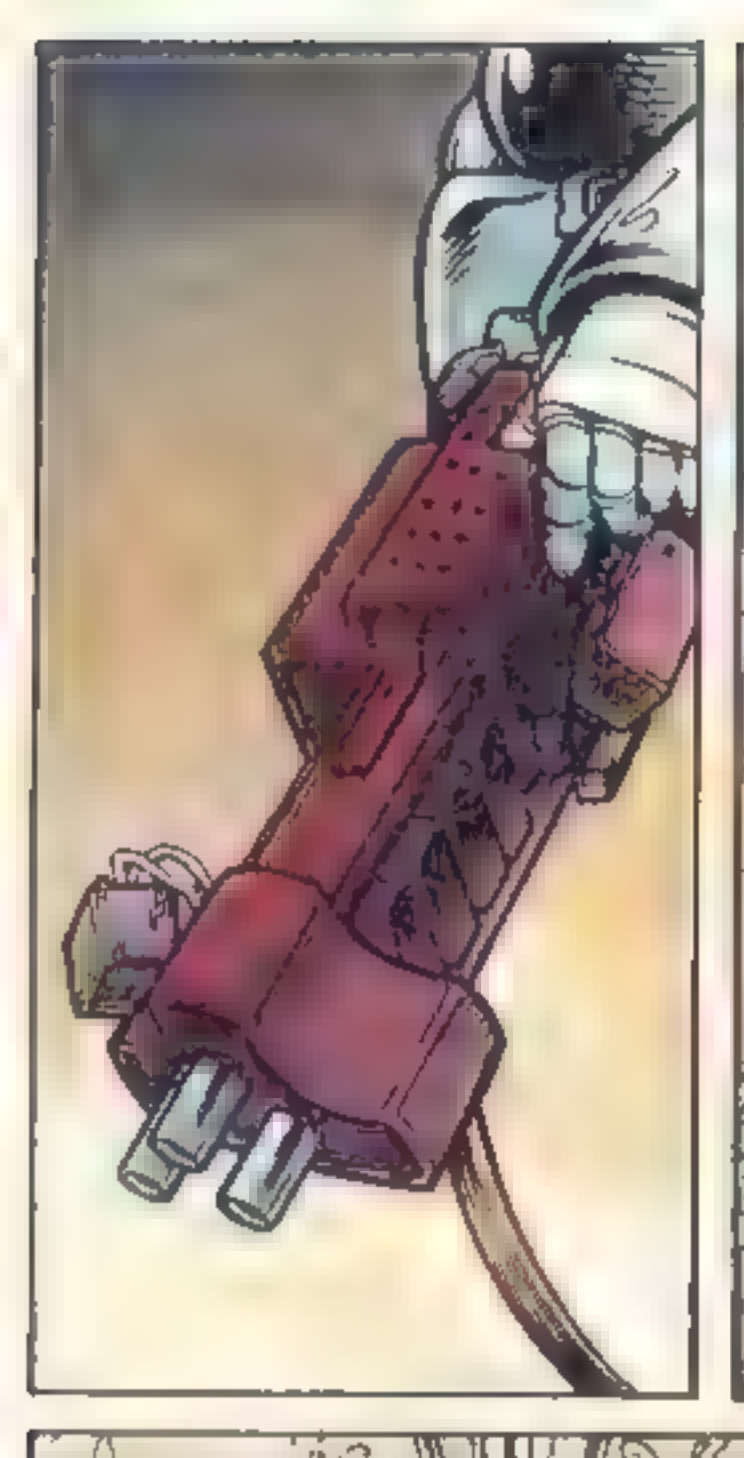
IT'S ALL RATHER PUZZLING.

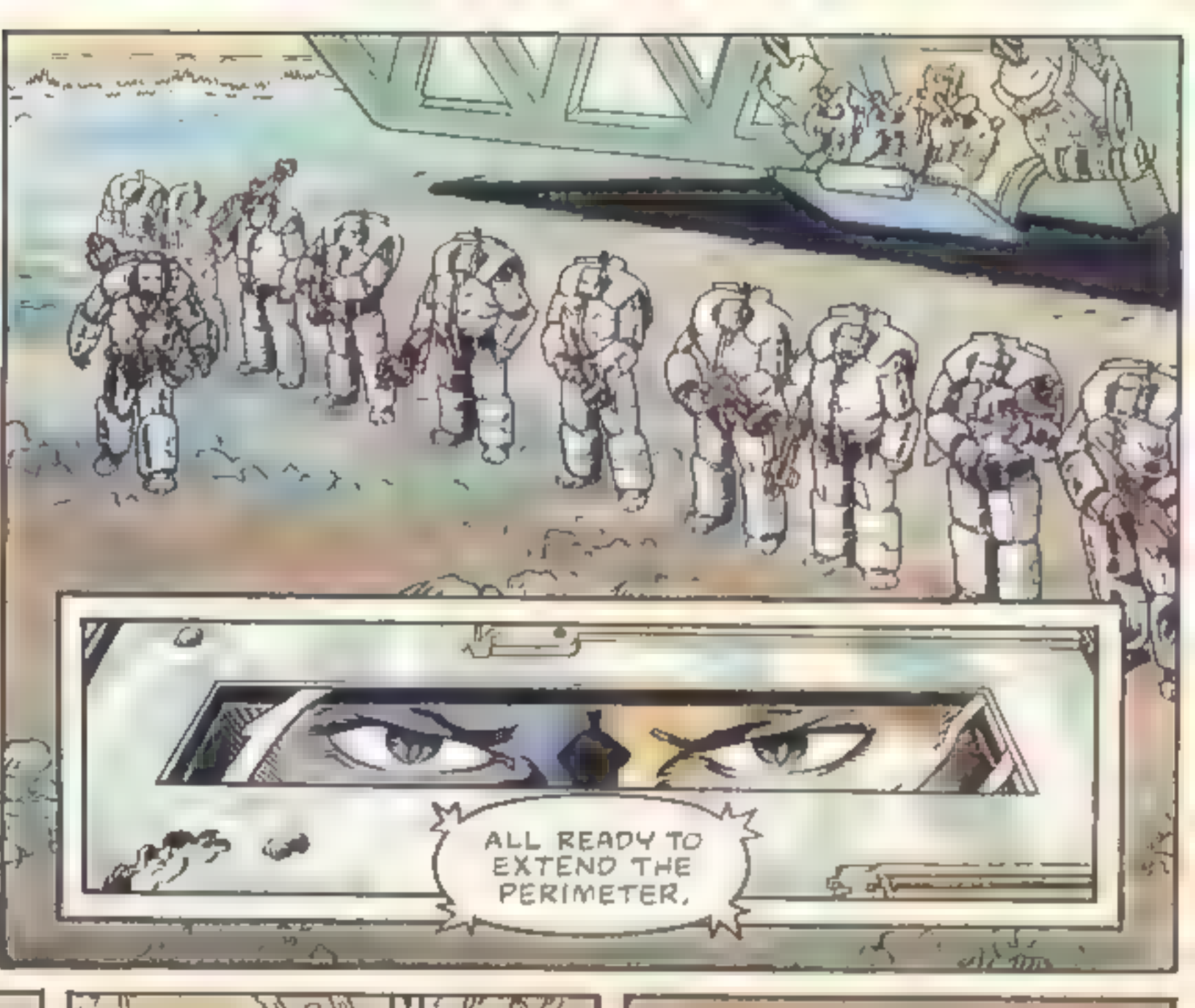
PERHAPS THEY'RE EXECUTING SOME SORT OF POPULATION CONTROL, LIKE LEMMINGS MARCHING INTO THE SEA.

I'M GOING OUT TO STUDY THIS PHENOMENON MORE CLOSELY.

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO HOLD OFF ON THAT, DR. BEGALLI.

I JUST GOT THE WORD.

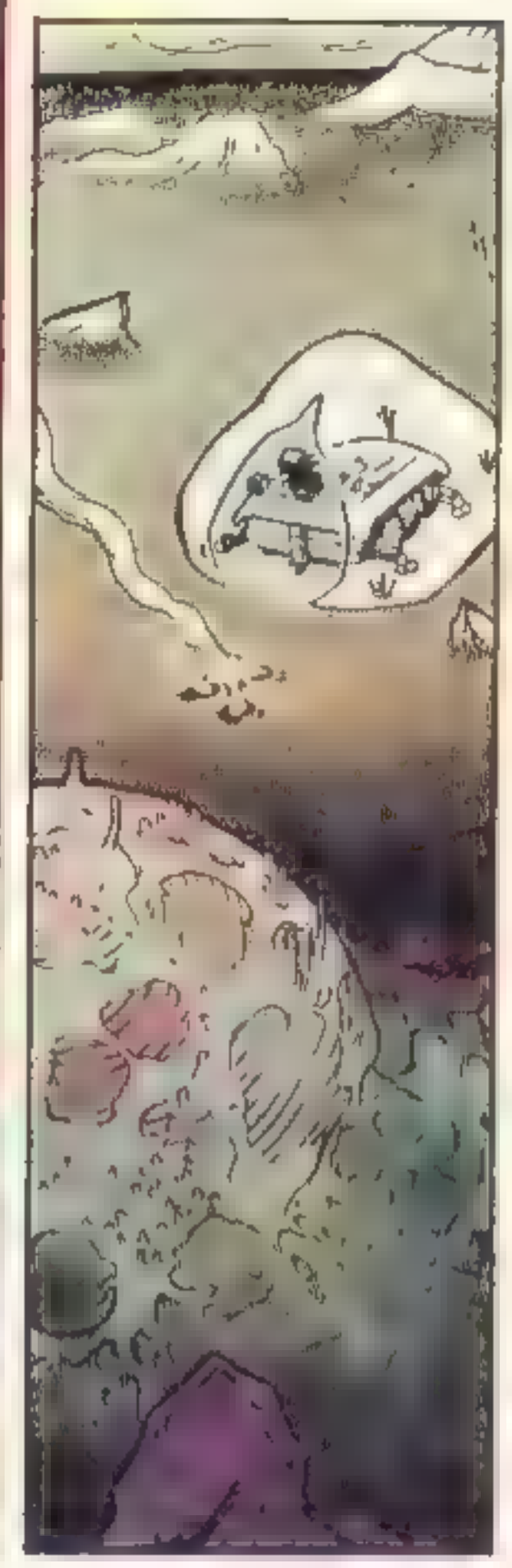


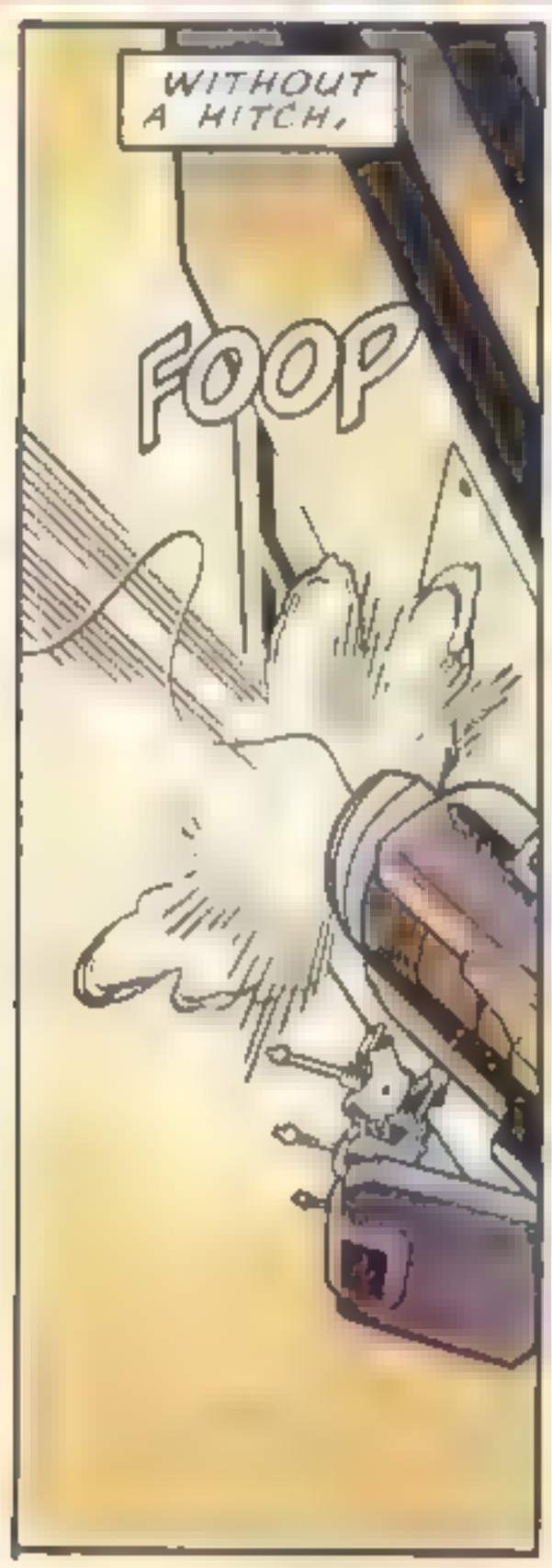

ALL READY TO EXTEND THE PERIMETER.

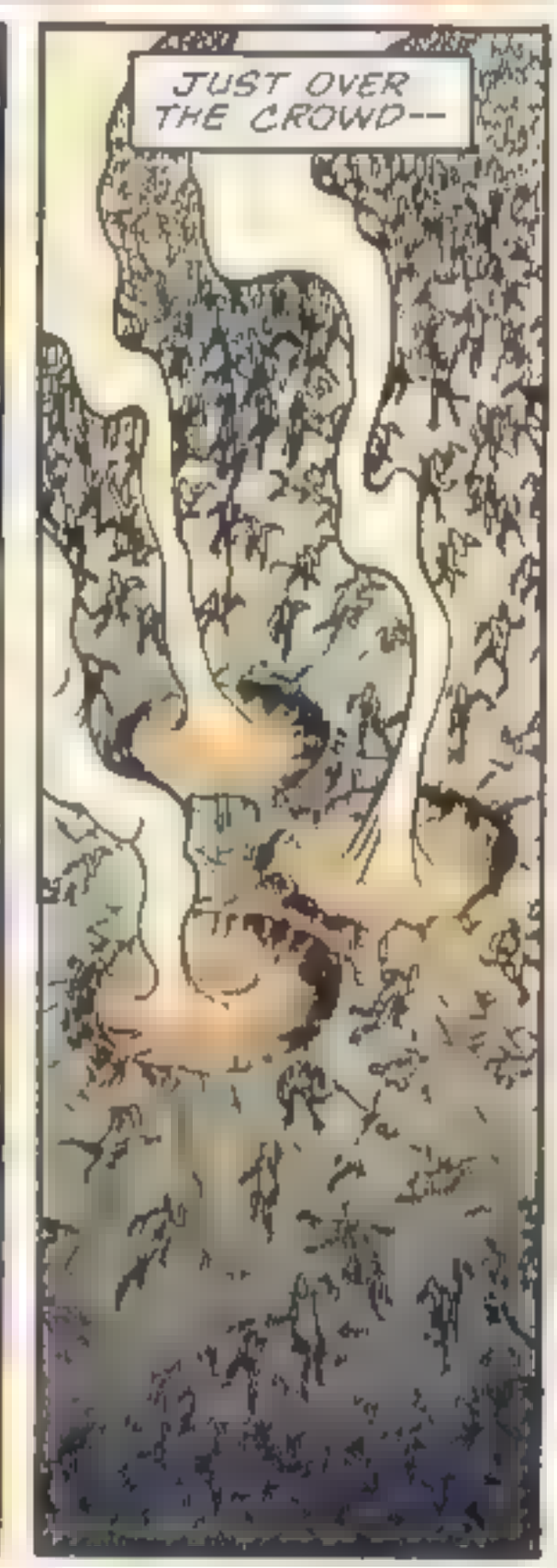
OKAY, O'CONNOR--
--DROP THE SOUTHERN WALL.

POOM POOM POOM

KA-BA-BOOM

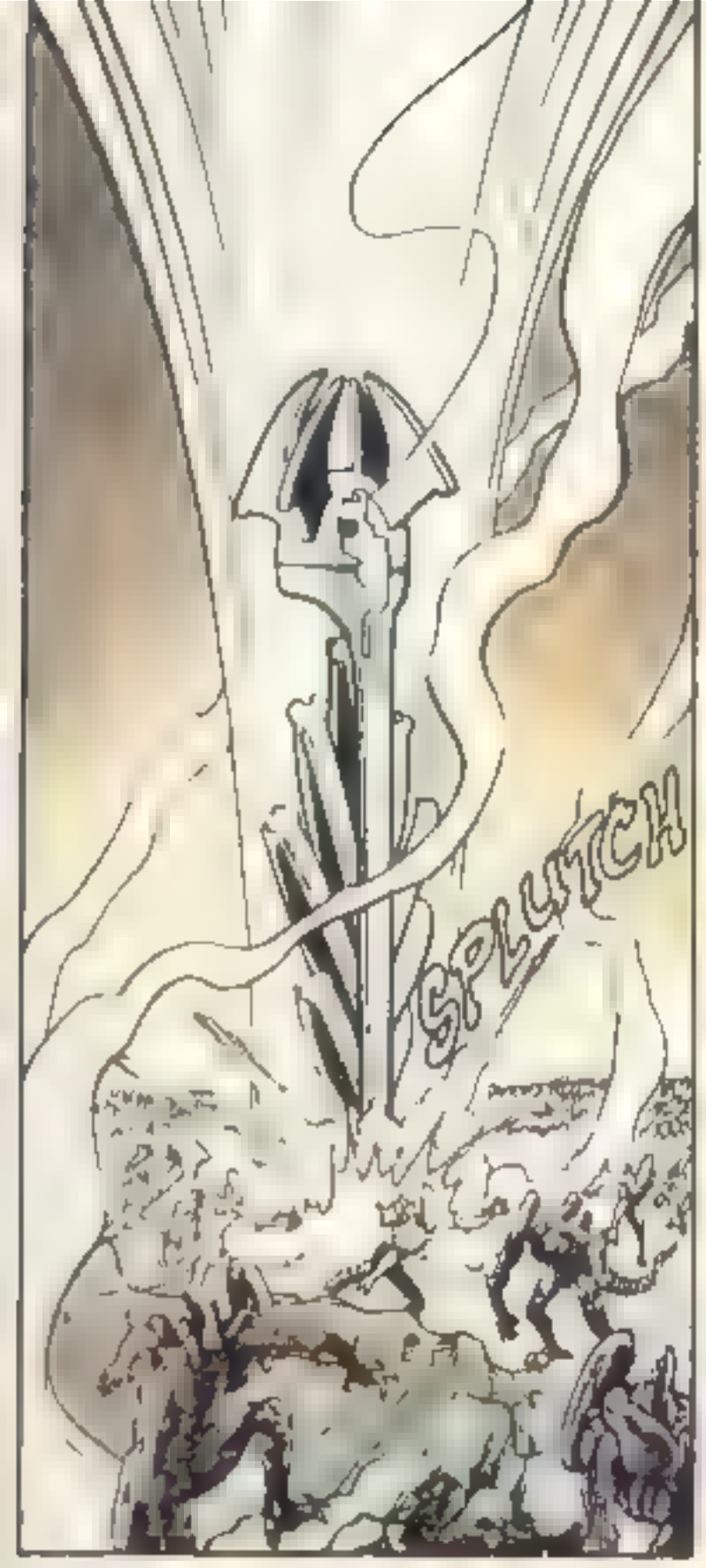


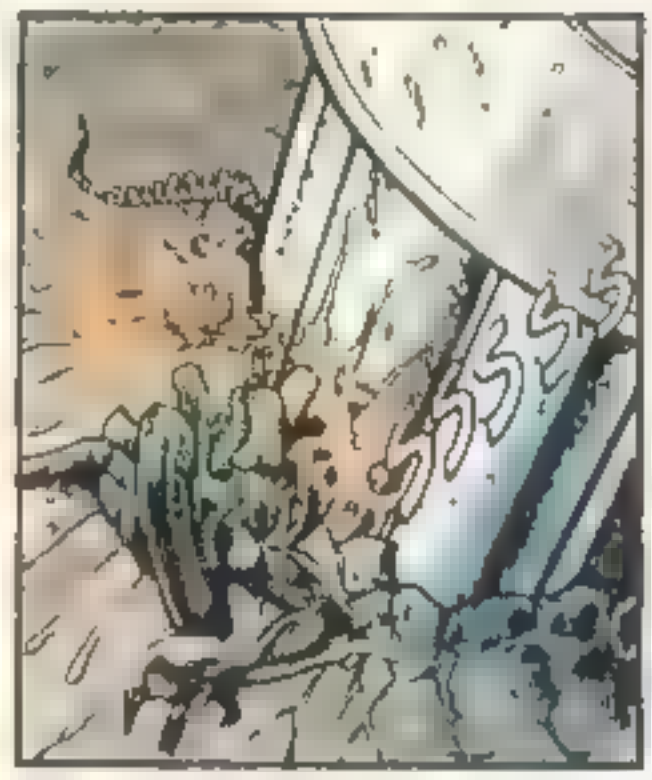

WITHOUT A HITCH,
FOOP


JUST OVER THE CROWD--

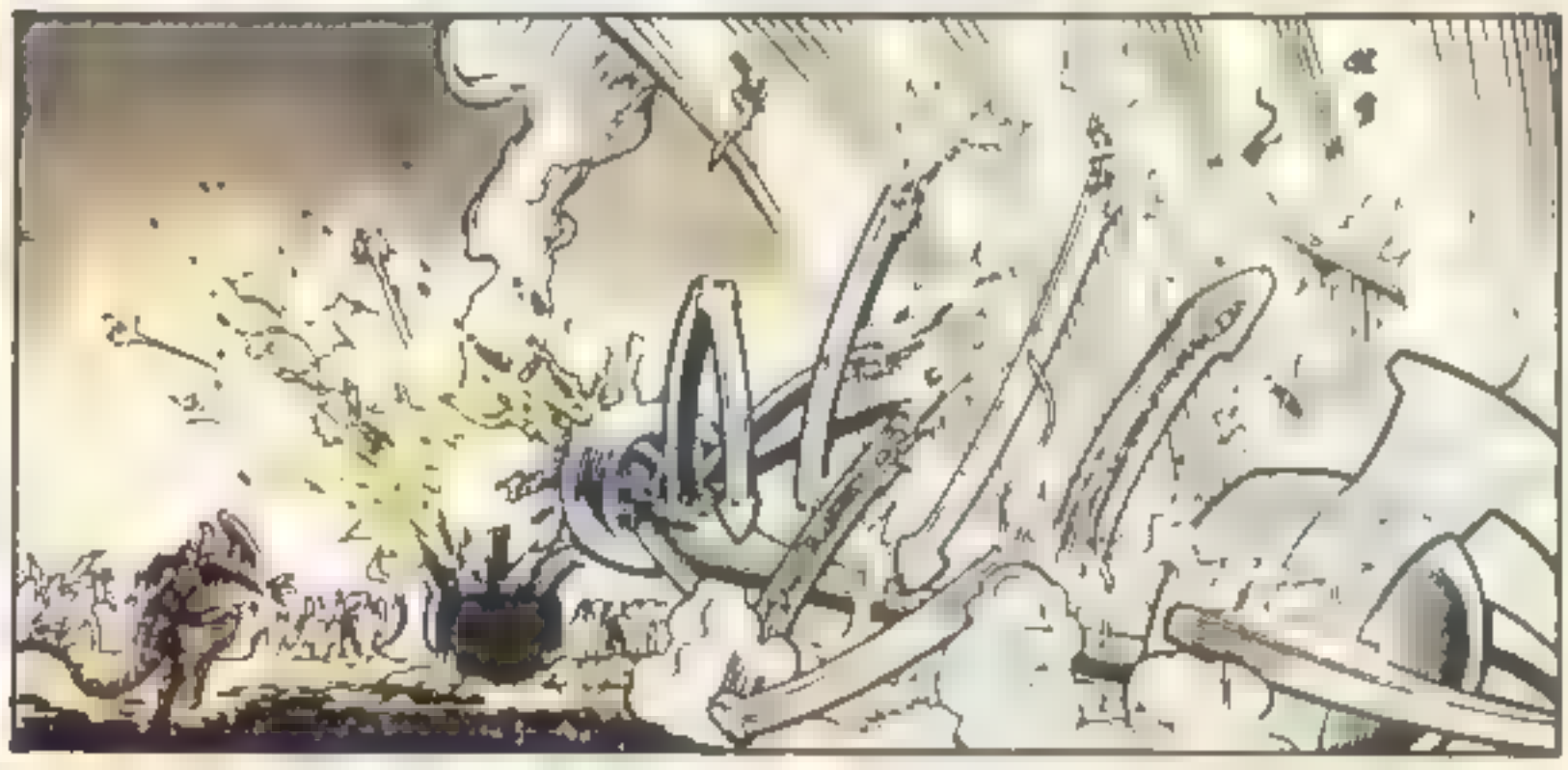
--AND INTO THE--

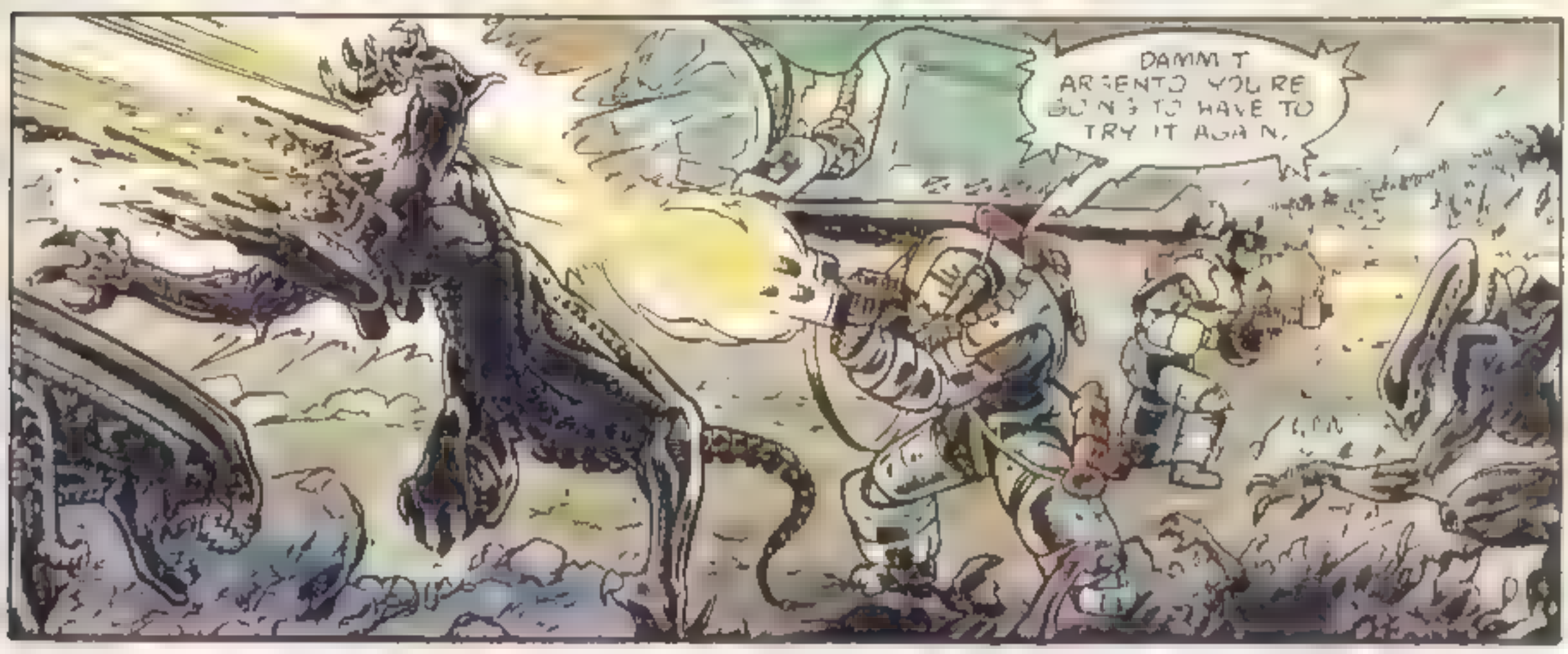
--CLEAR?


SPLUTCH

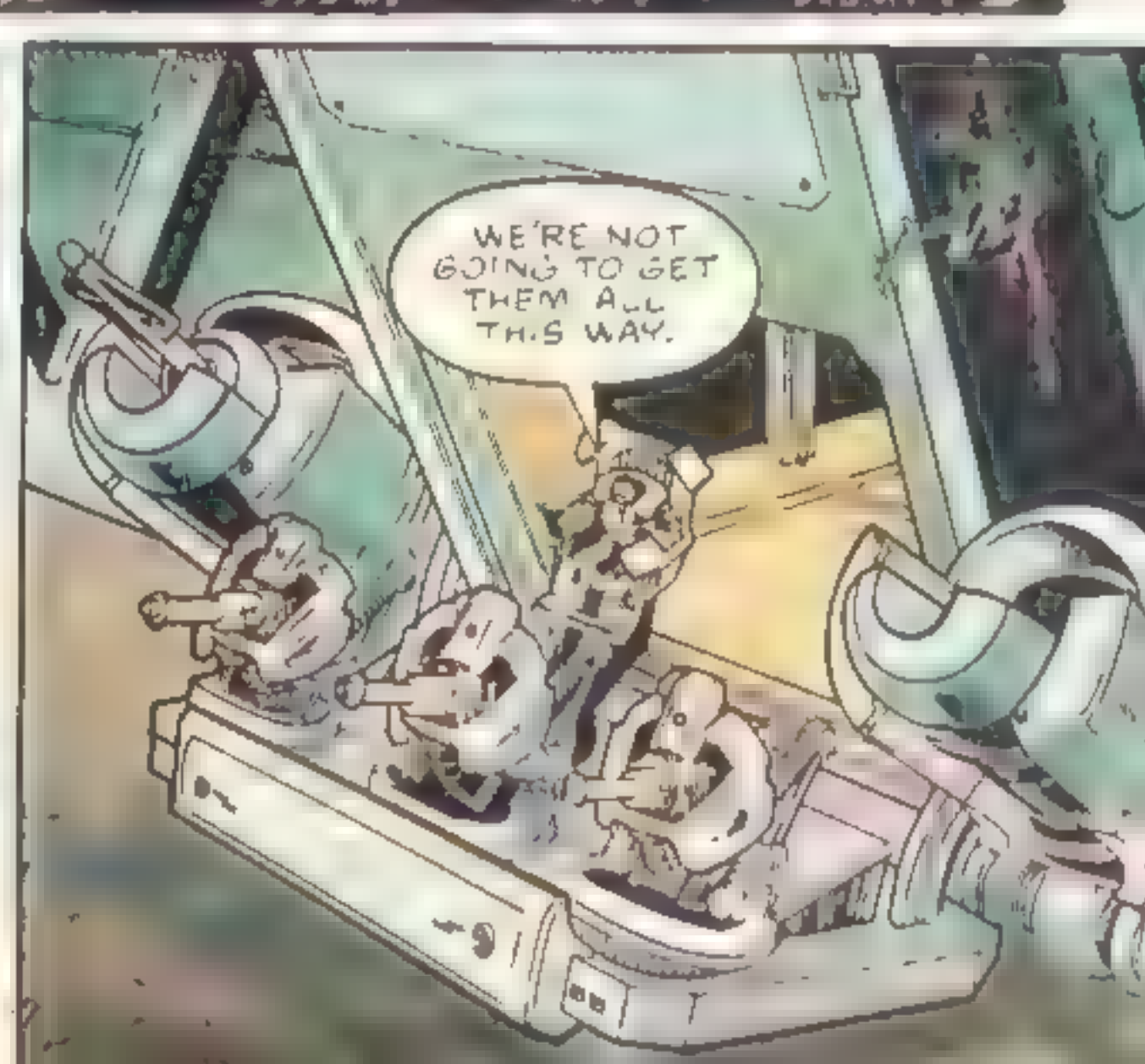


SSSS




DAMM T
ARGENTO YOU RE
GOING TO HAVE TO
TRY IT AGAIN.

YOU GOT IT, MAJOR, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD TRY ANOTHER TACTIC, THIS IS TOUGHER THAN WE FIGURED.
IT S LIKE TRYING TO EMPTY A RIVER WITH A BUCKET.


WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THEM ALL THIS WAY.

FIRE SMOKE, AND TORTURED SCREAMS FILL THE THIN ATMOSPHERE OF HELL.

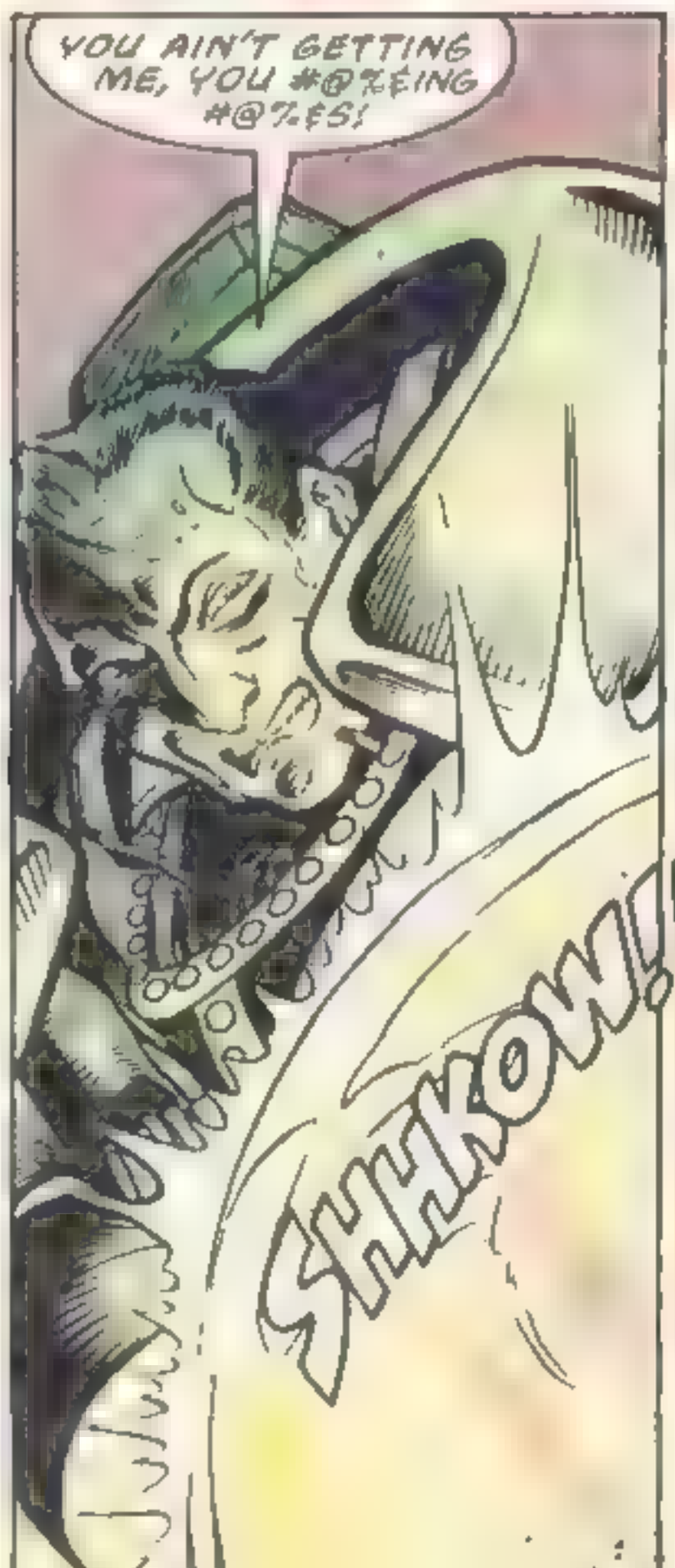
SHHKOW

FROM THE SAFETY OF THE LANDER DANIEL GRANT WATCHES PEOPLE DIE, PEOPLE HE HAD TALKED TO AND EATEN WITH, AND COME TO RESPECT.

SHHKOW!!

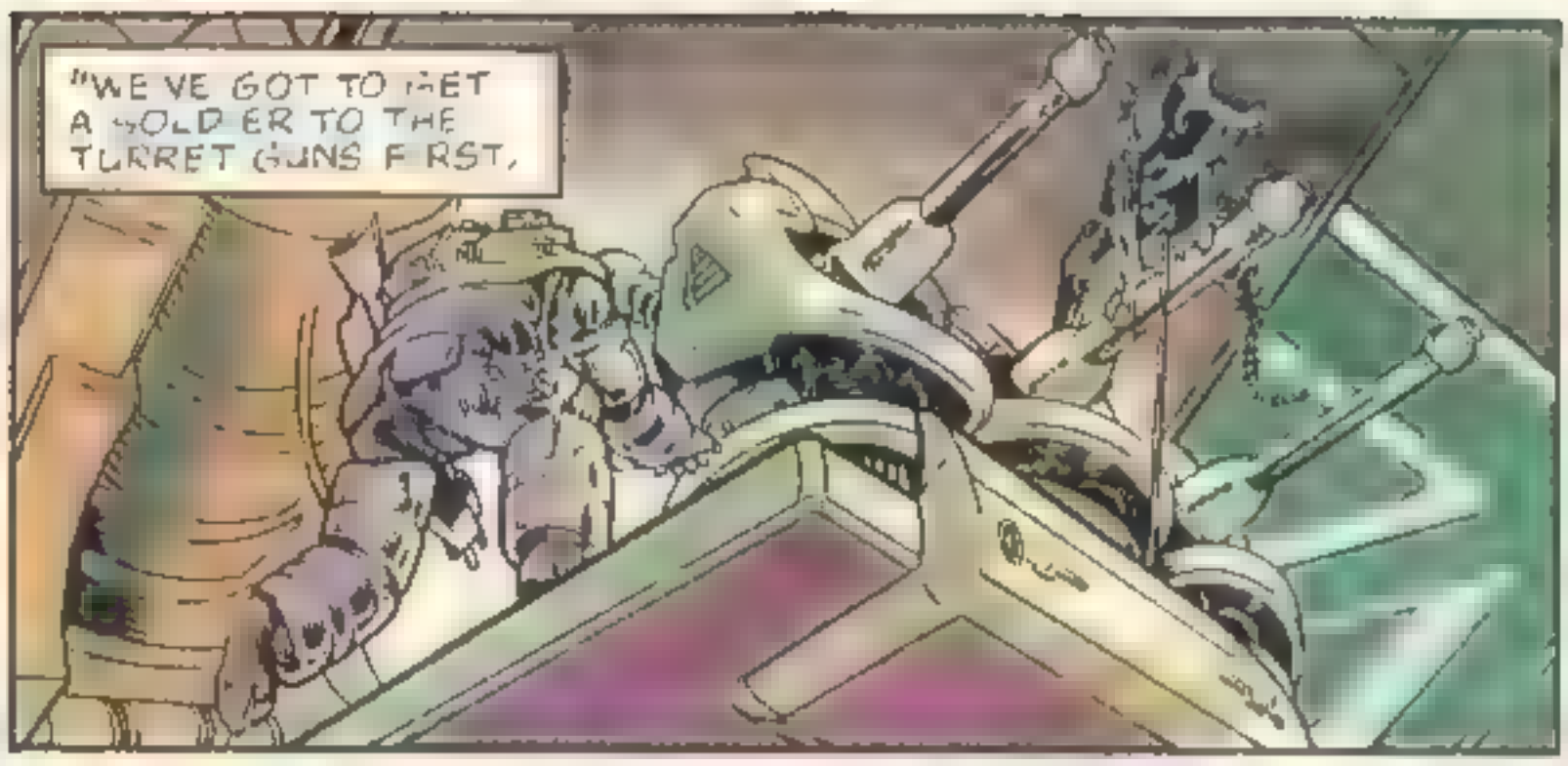
ALL DOOMED BY NEO-PHARM'S NEED FOR PROFIT.

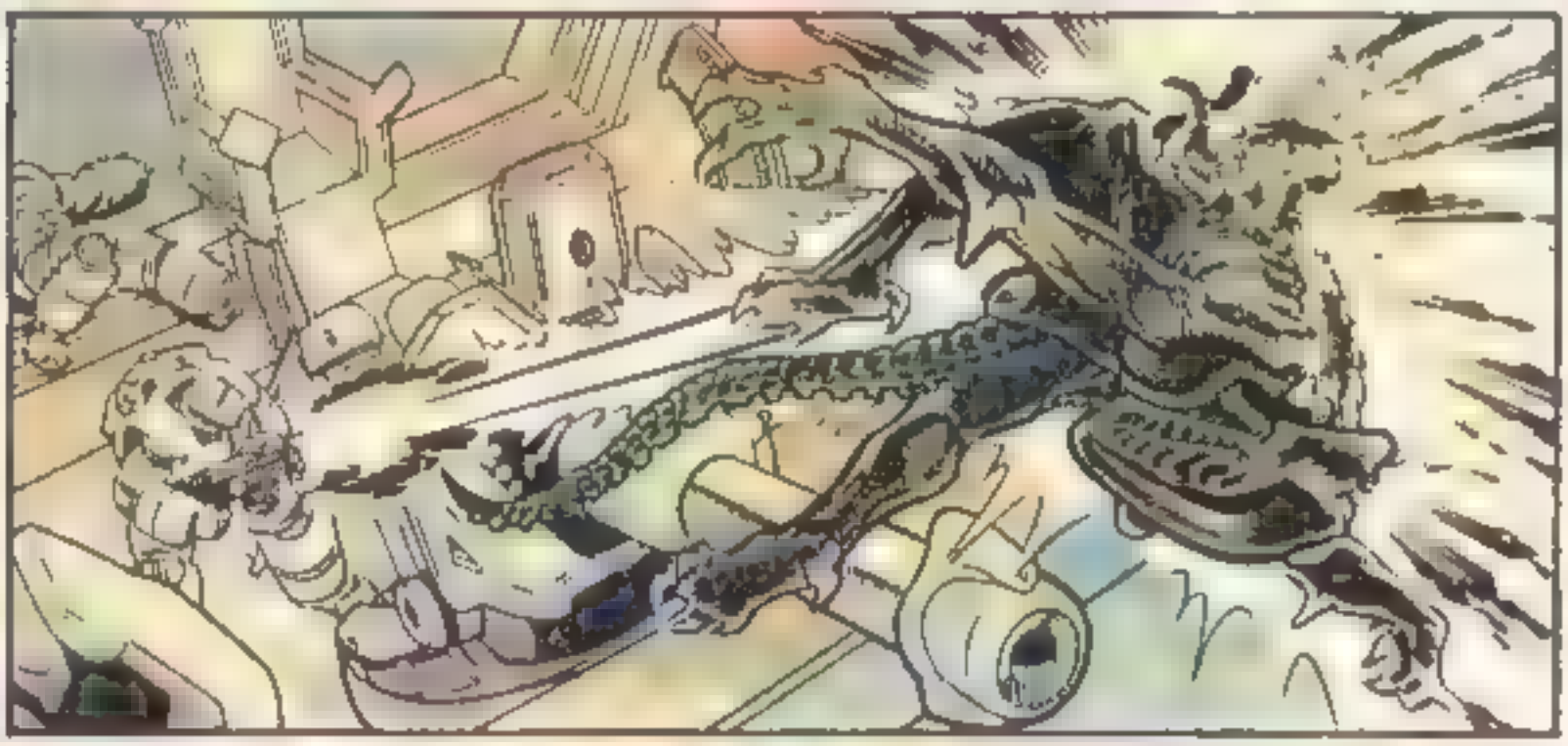
HIS HEART FREEZES AS HE FEELS HIS SOUL SLIP INTO THE GRASP OF DEMONS.

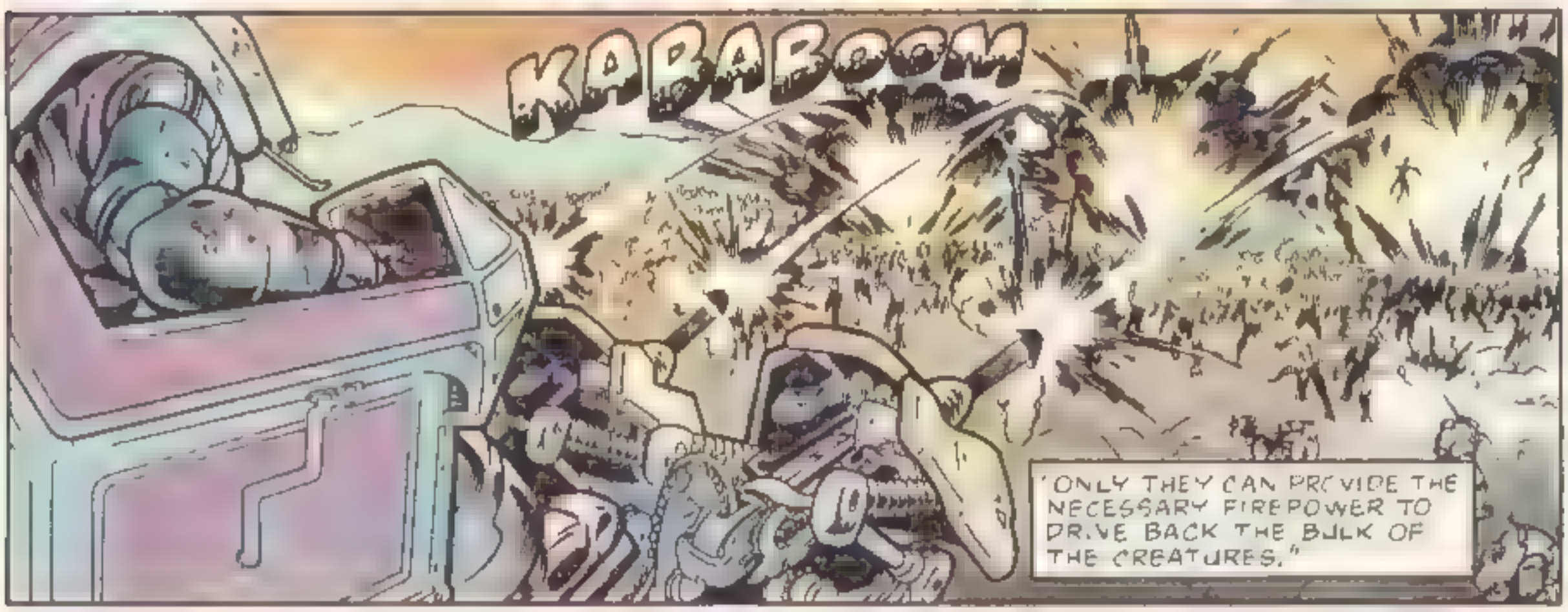


ARGENTO, SCREW THE PERIMETER.
FIRE THE MORTARS INTO THEIR FRONT LINES.
FORGET ABOUT ARGENTO, MAJOR.
"HIS FIGHTING DAYS ARE OVER."
O'CONNOR, REACTIVATE THE SOUTHERN WALL, ASAP!
WILL DO, MAJOR.
WAIT!
WAIT FOR WHAT, YOU MAGGOT?
FOR A FEW MORE OF THEM TO GET KILLED?

GO AHEAD O'CONNOR, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS TURD
NO MR GRANT HE'S RIGHT,


"WE'VE GOT TO GET A SOLDIER TO THE TURRET GUNS FIRST,




KABABOOM
"ONLY THEY CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FIREPOWER TO DRIVE BACK THE BULK OF THE CREATURES."

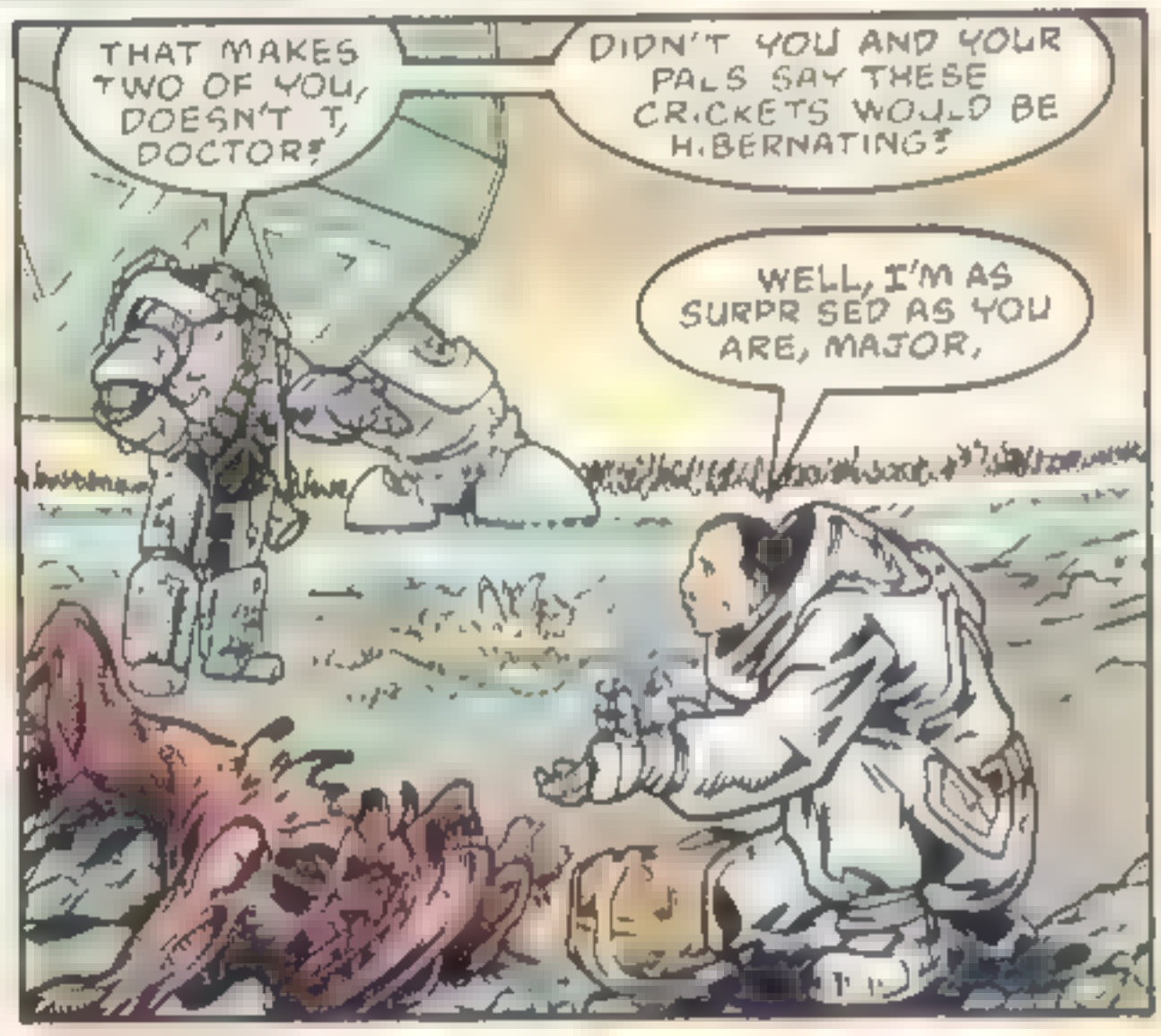
IF I'D THROWN UP THE BARRIER, THE BLAST WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTAINED--
--RESULTING IN SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE LANDER.

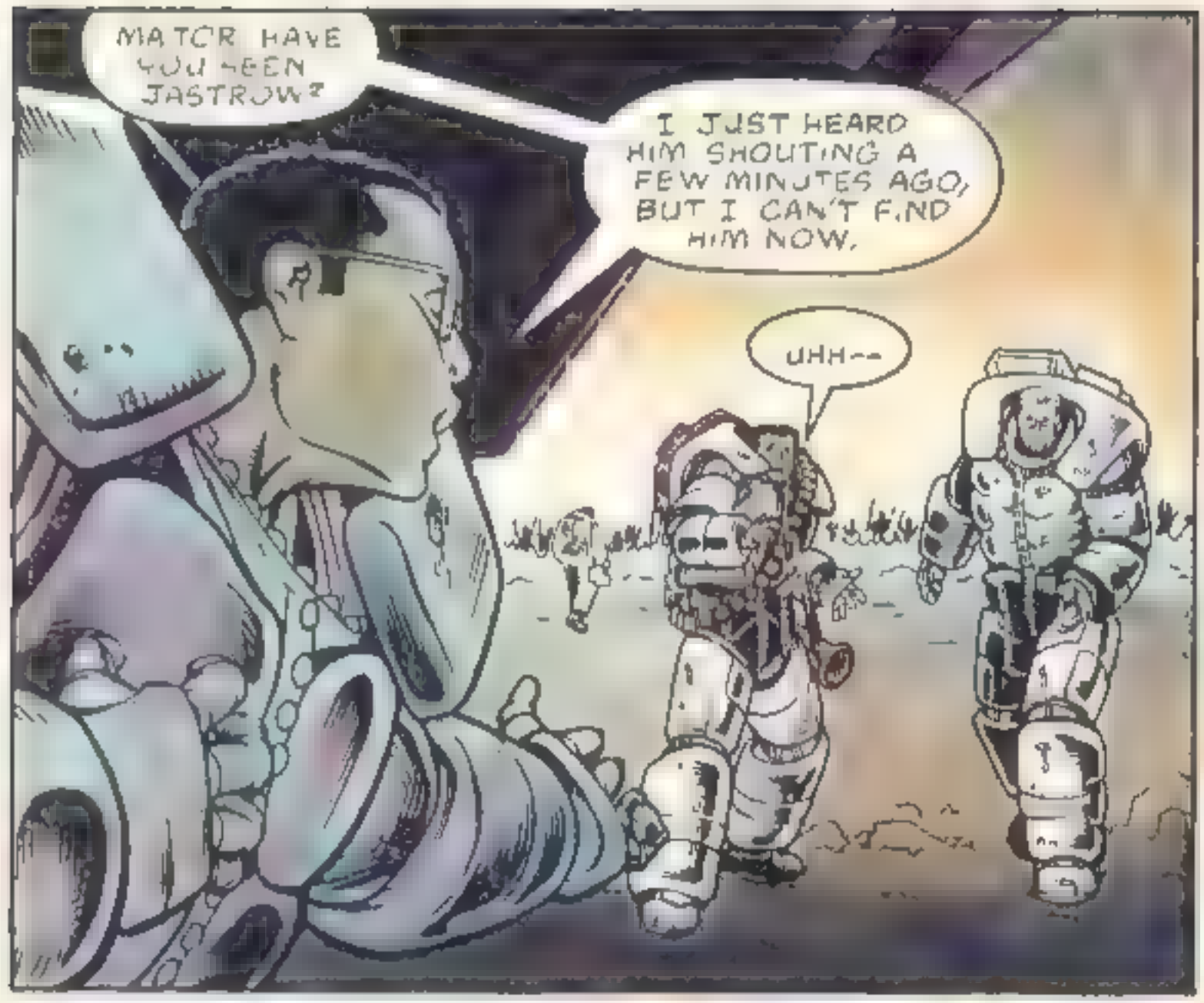
THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT, ISN'T IT DR BEGALLI?
UH, OF COURSE!
WHAT ELSE?

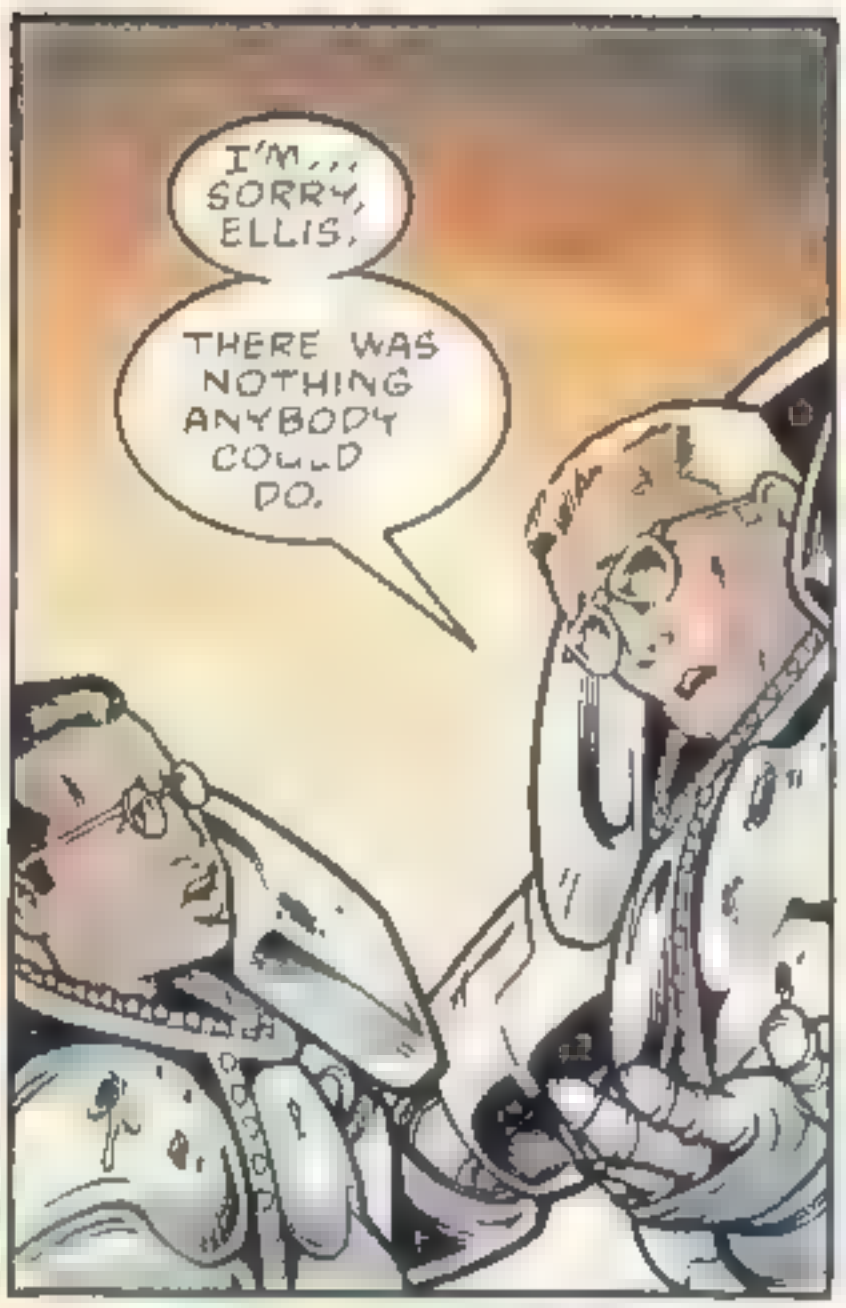
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE CREATURES ARE REPELLED, THE PERIMETER'S SOUTHERN WALL IS SECURED.

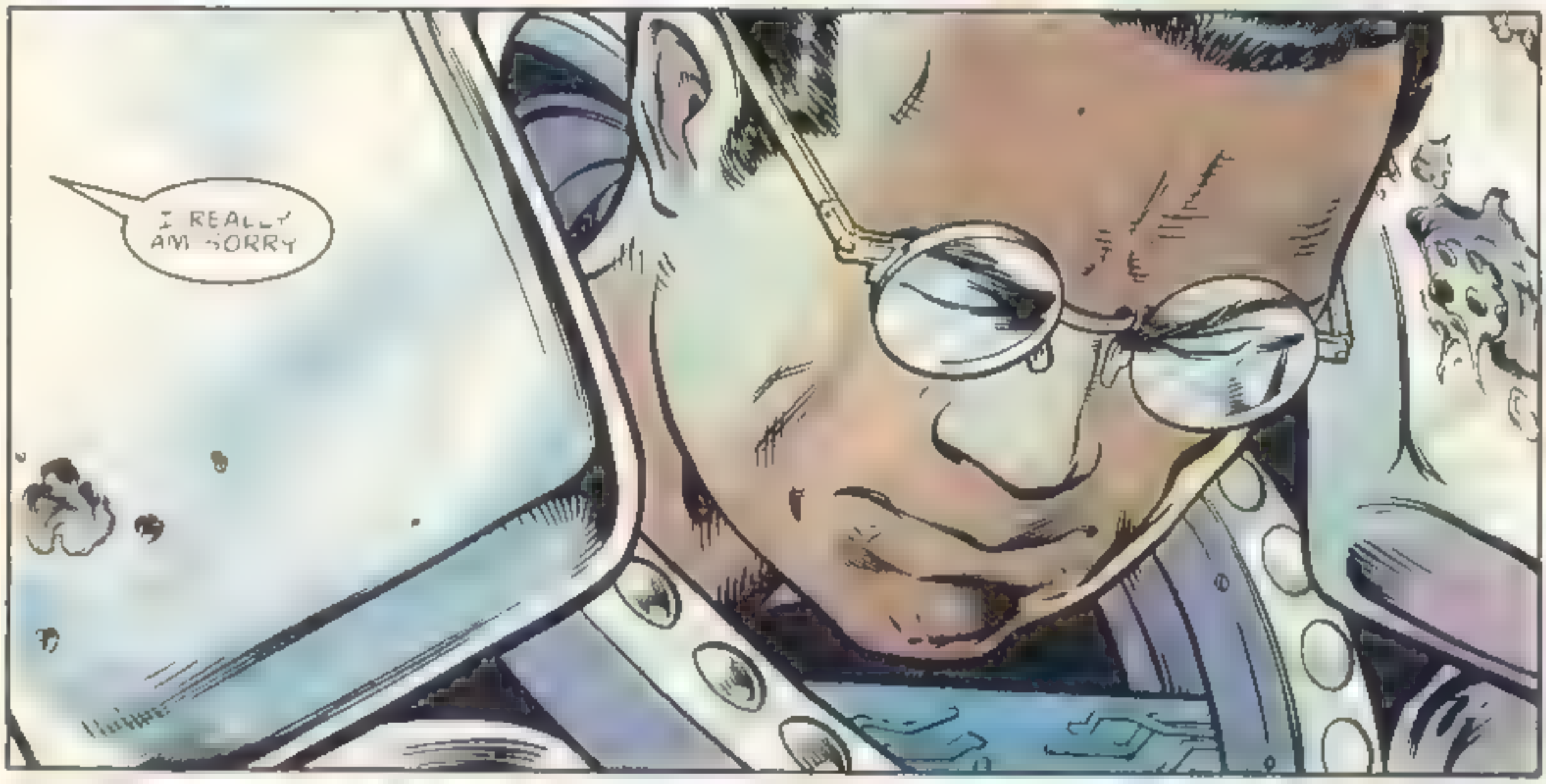
AND FIVE MARINES ARE DEAD.

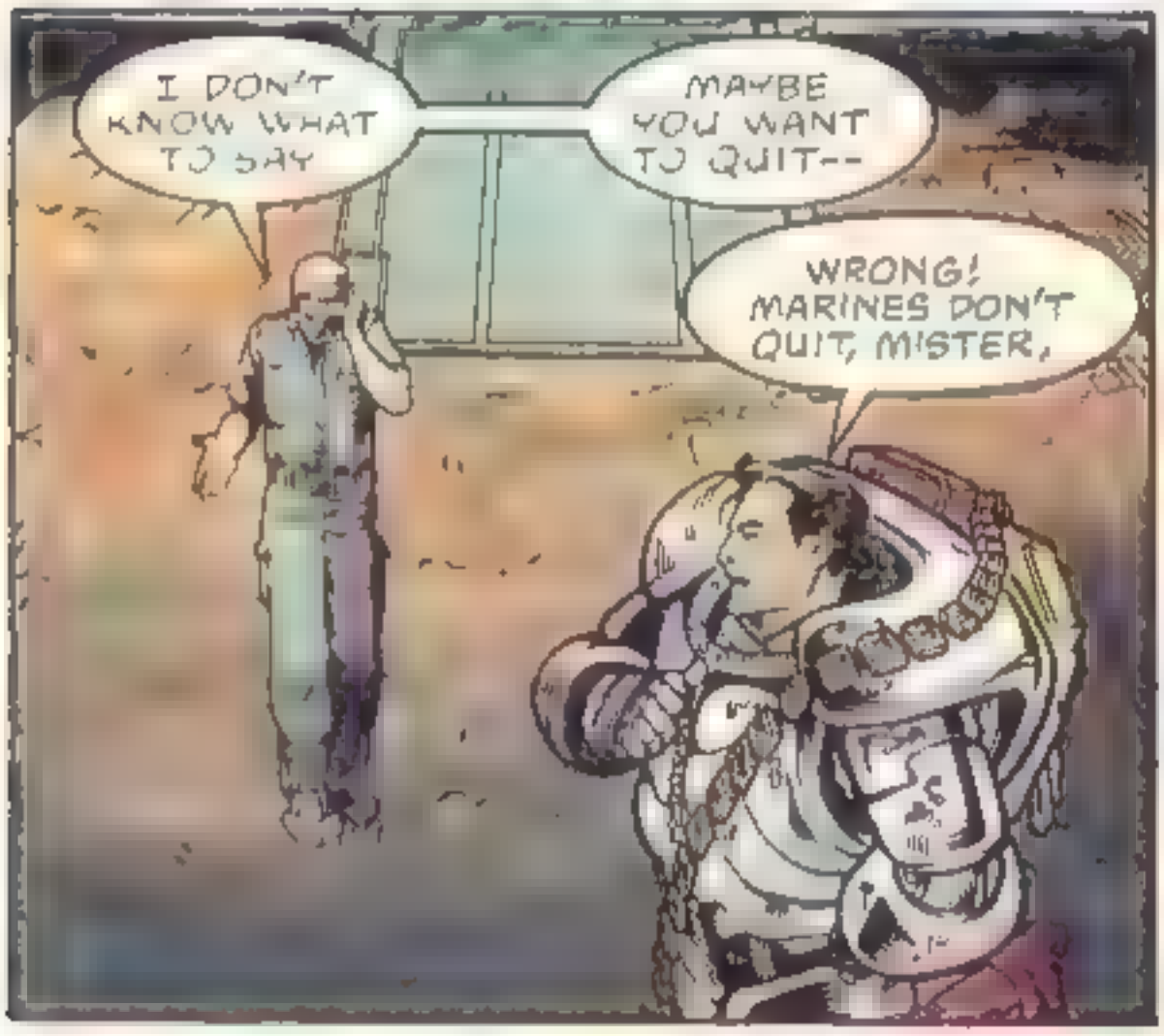
JESUS...




MATOR HAVE YOU SEEN JASTROW?
I JUST HEARD HIM SHOUTING A FEW MINUTES AGO, BUT I CAN'T FIND HIM NOW.
UHH--


I'M... SORRY, ELLIS.
THERE WAS NOTHING ANYBODY COULD DO.


I REALLY AM SORRY


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
MAYBE YOU WANT TO QUIT--
WRONG! MARINES DON'T QUIT, MISTER.

MY COUNTRY SENT ME HERE TO GET SOMETHING, AND I'VE LOST TOO MANY PEOPLE TO GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED NOW.
I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I DON'T LIKE IT.

UH, PARDON ME, MAJOR, MR. GRANT, BUT I THINK I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS.

I BELIEVE WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING IS AN INTERSPECIES WAR

I CAN ONLY GUESS HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT IT APPEARS THE RED CREATURES ARE MUTATIONS, A SEPARATE SPECIES FROM THE MORE FAMILIAR BLACK CREATURES.

THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR TERRITORIAL CONTROL.

YOU MEAN LIKE ANTS?!

PRECISELY.

SO WHY IS THAT GOOD NEWS?

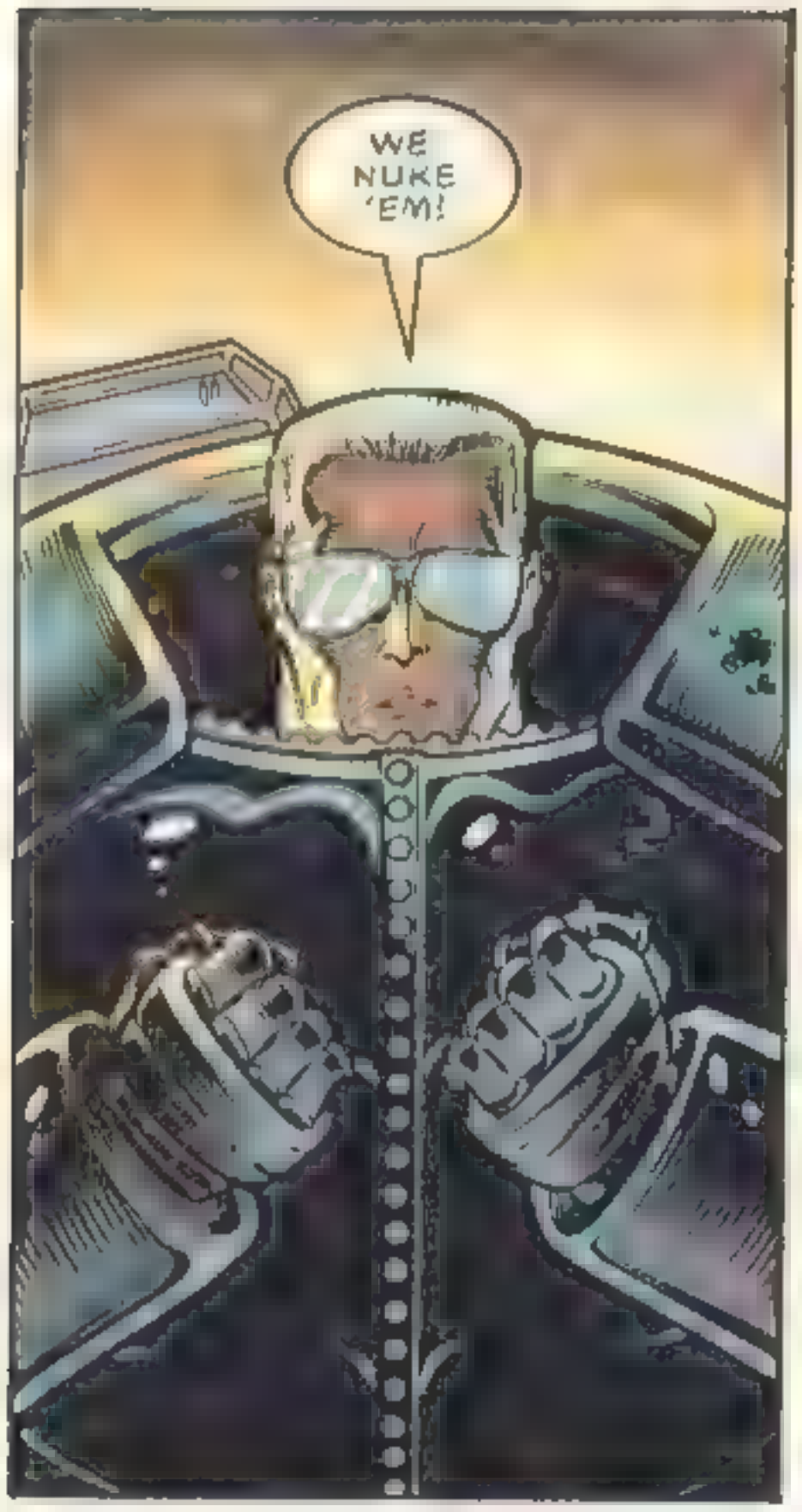
WELL, IF WE COULD SWAY THE BATTLE IN FAVOR OF ONE SIDE, THERE WOULD VERY LIKELY BE A ROUT.

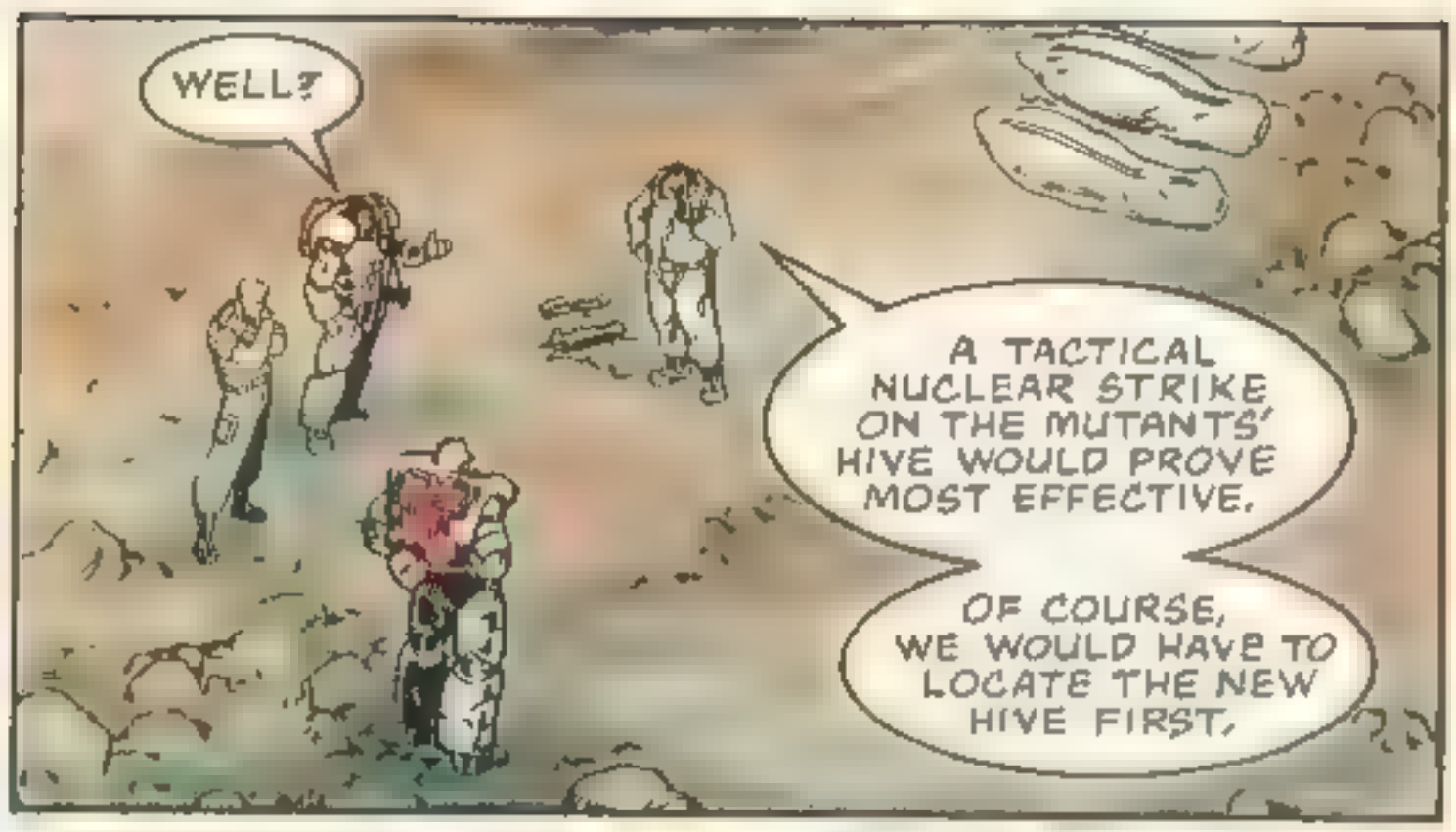
LEAVING THIS HIVE RELATIVELY CLEAR AND UNPROTECTED.

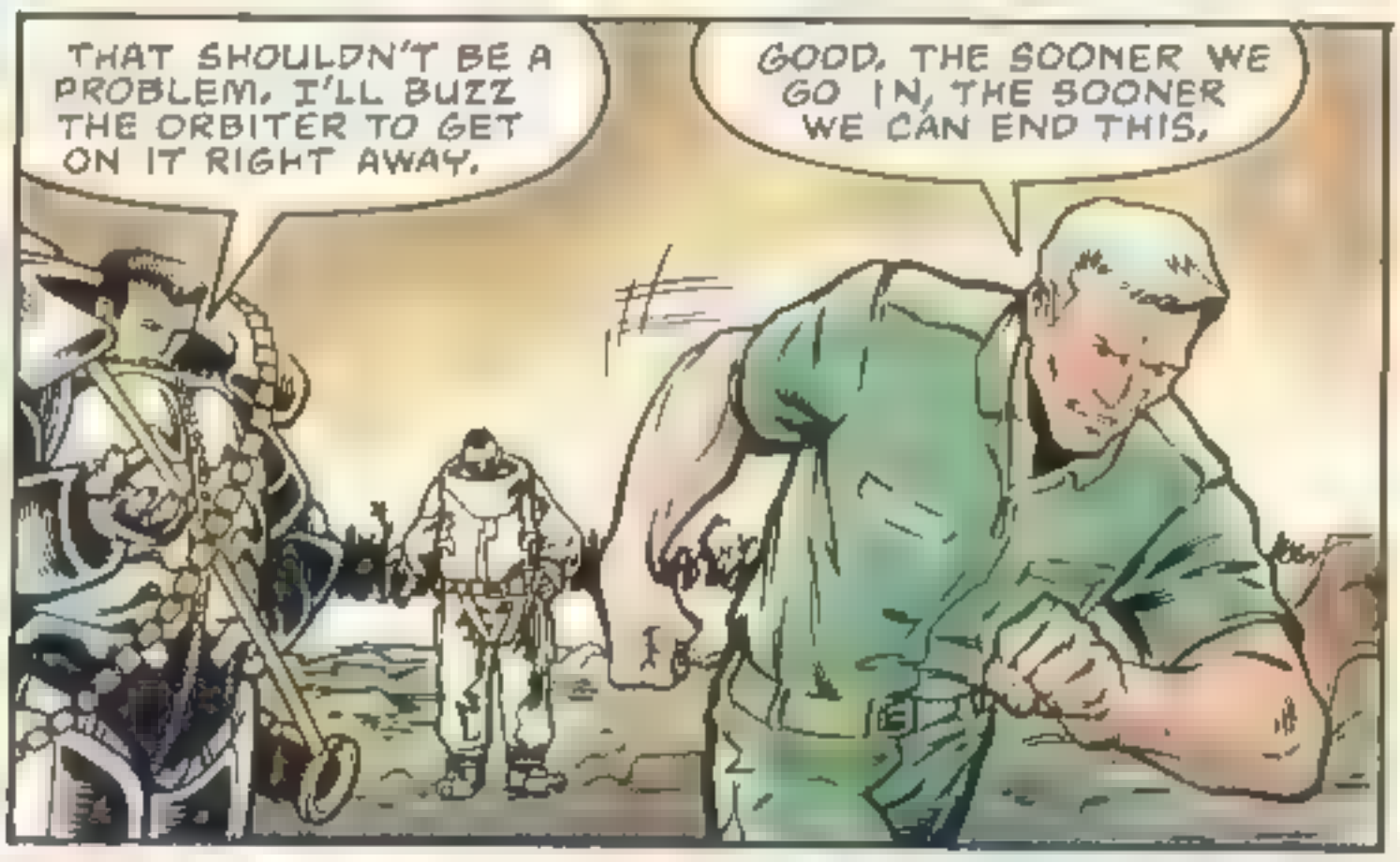
BUT THAT TURRET CARRIES OUR BEST FIREPOWER, AND IT DIDN'T DO A THING.

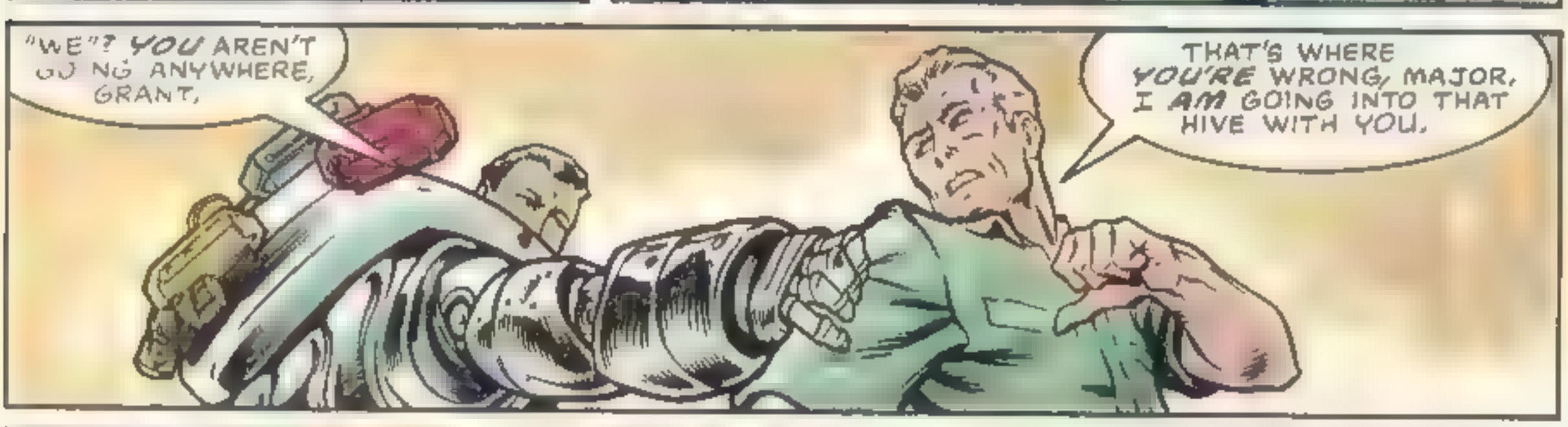
HOW CAN WE SWAY THE BATTLE?

EASY, MR GRANT.

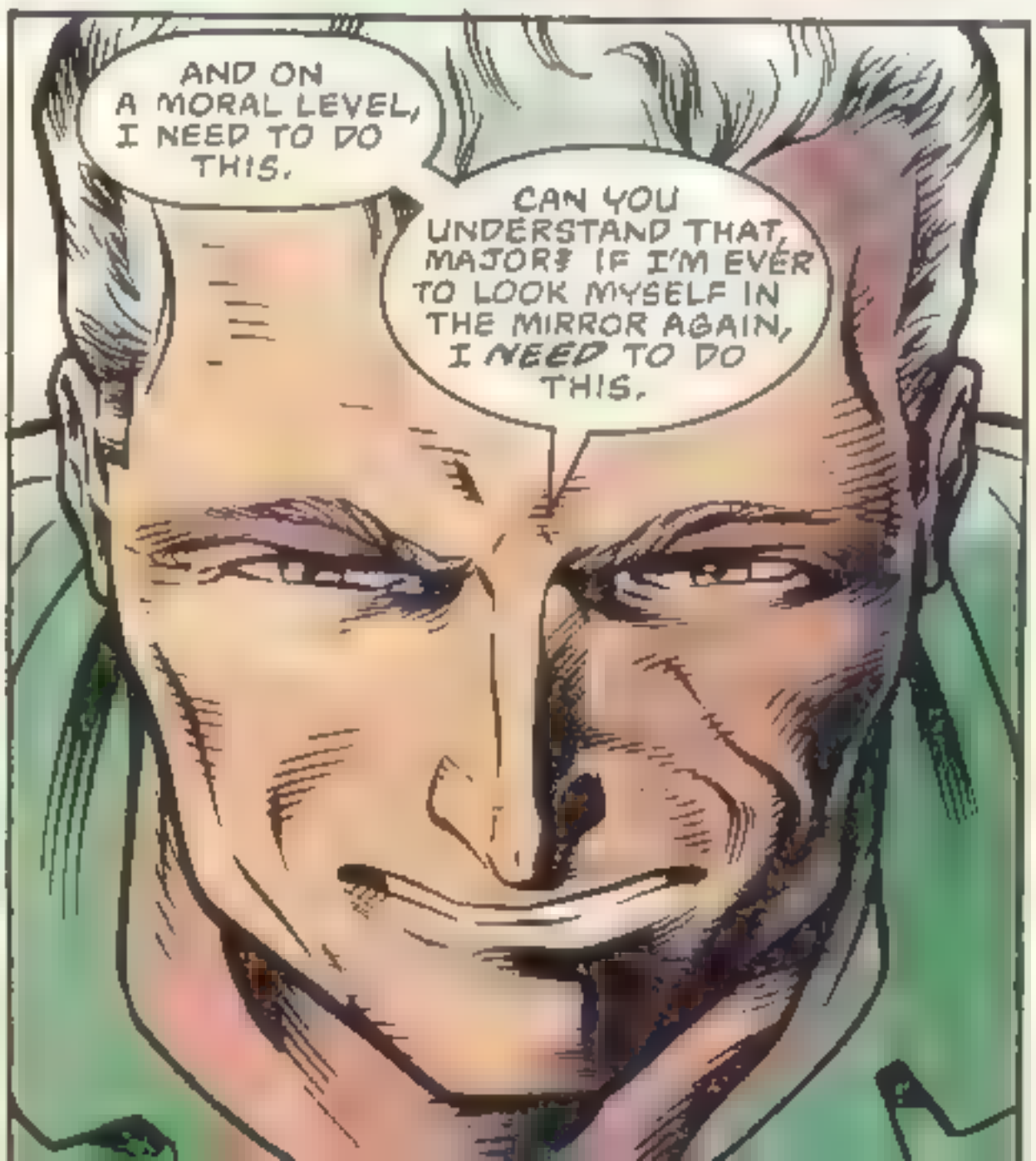

WE NUKE 'EM!

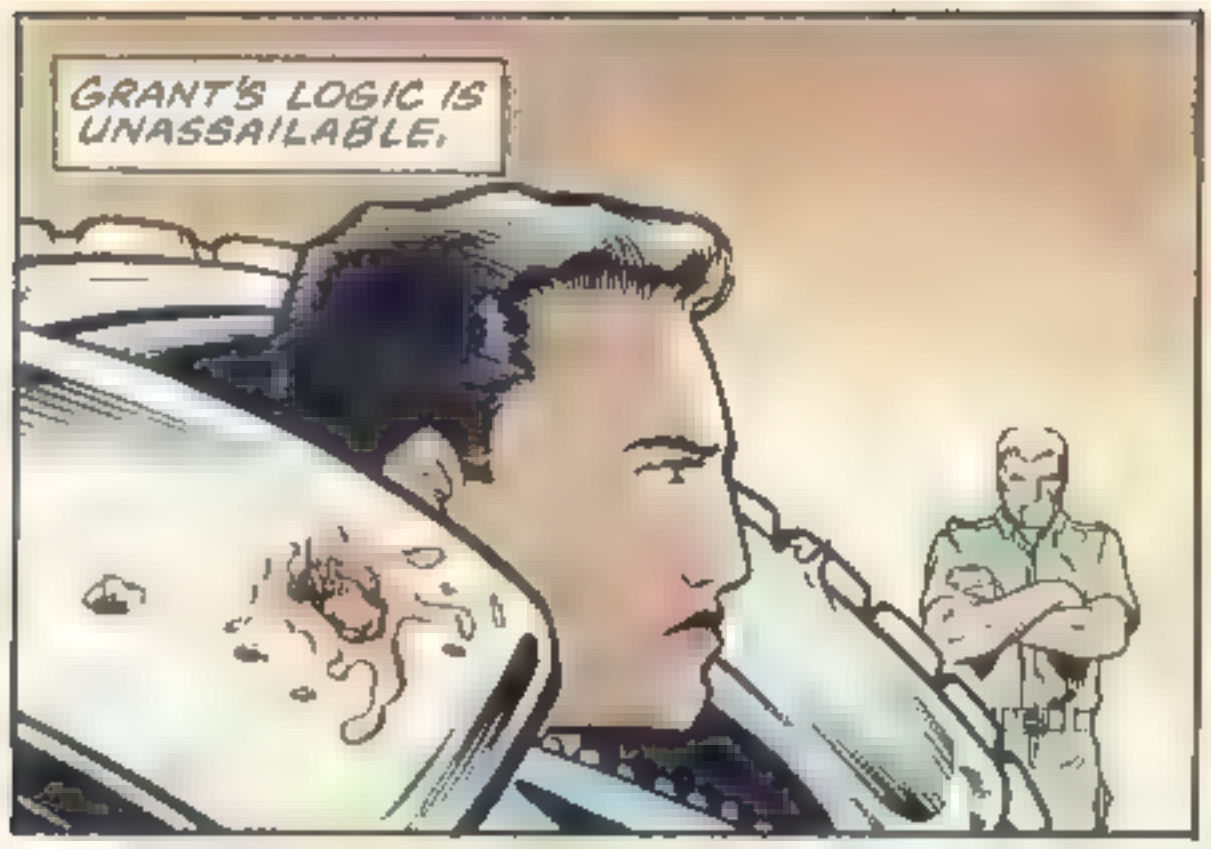

WELL?
A TACTICAL NUCLEAR STRIKE ON THE MUTANTS' HIVE WOULD PROVE MOST EFFECTIVE.
OF COURSE, WE WOULD HAVE TO LOCATE THE NEW HIVE FIRST.

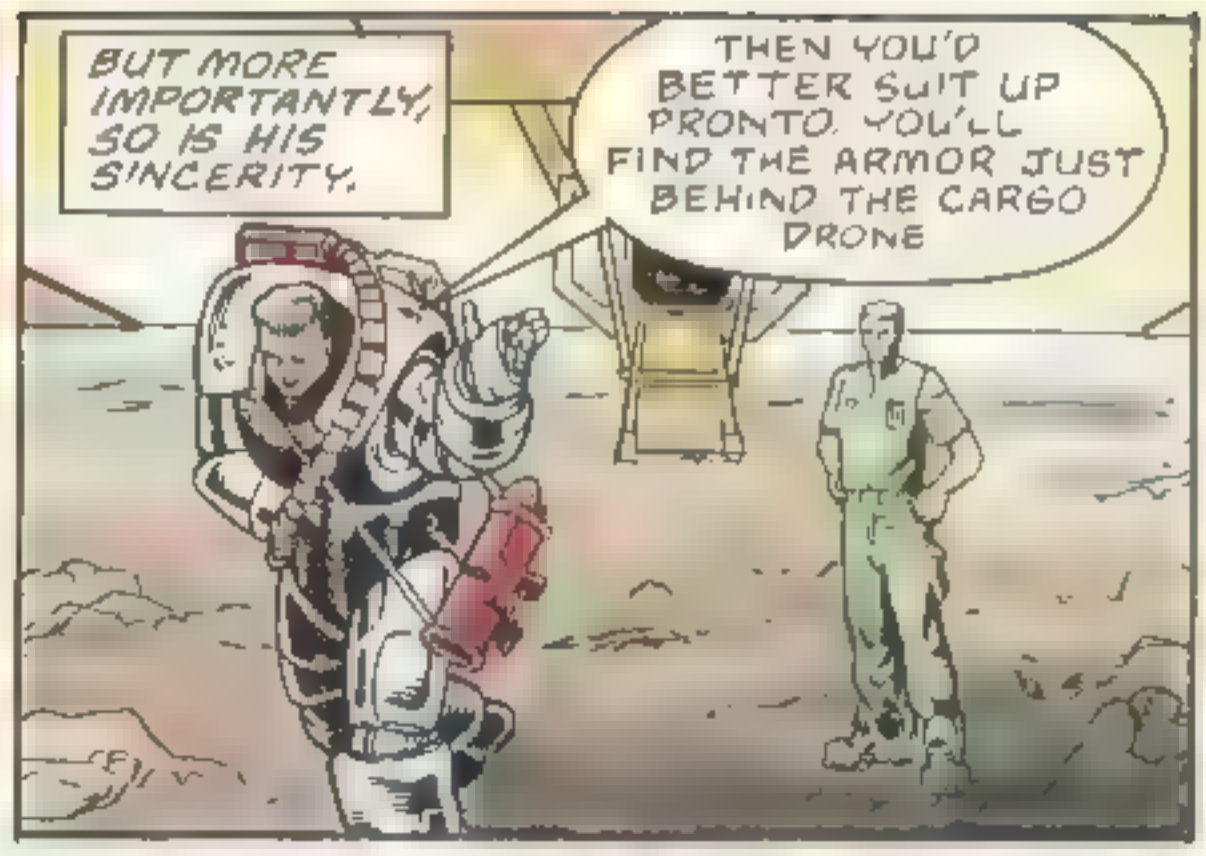

THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. I'LL BUZZ THE ORBITER TO GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
GOOD. THE SOONER WE GO IN, THE SOONER WE CAN END THIS.

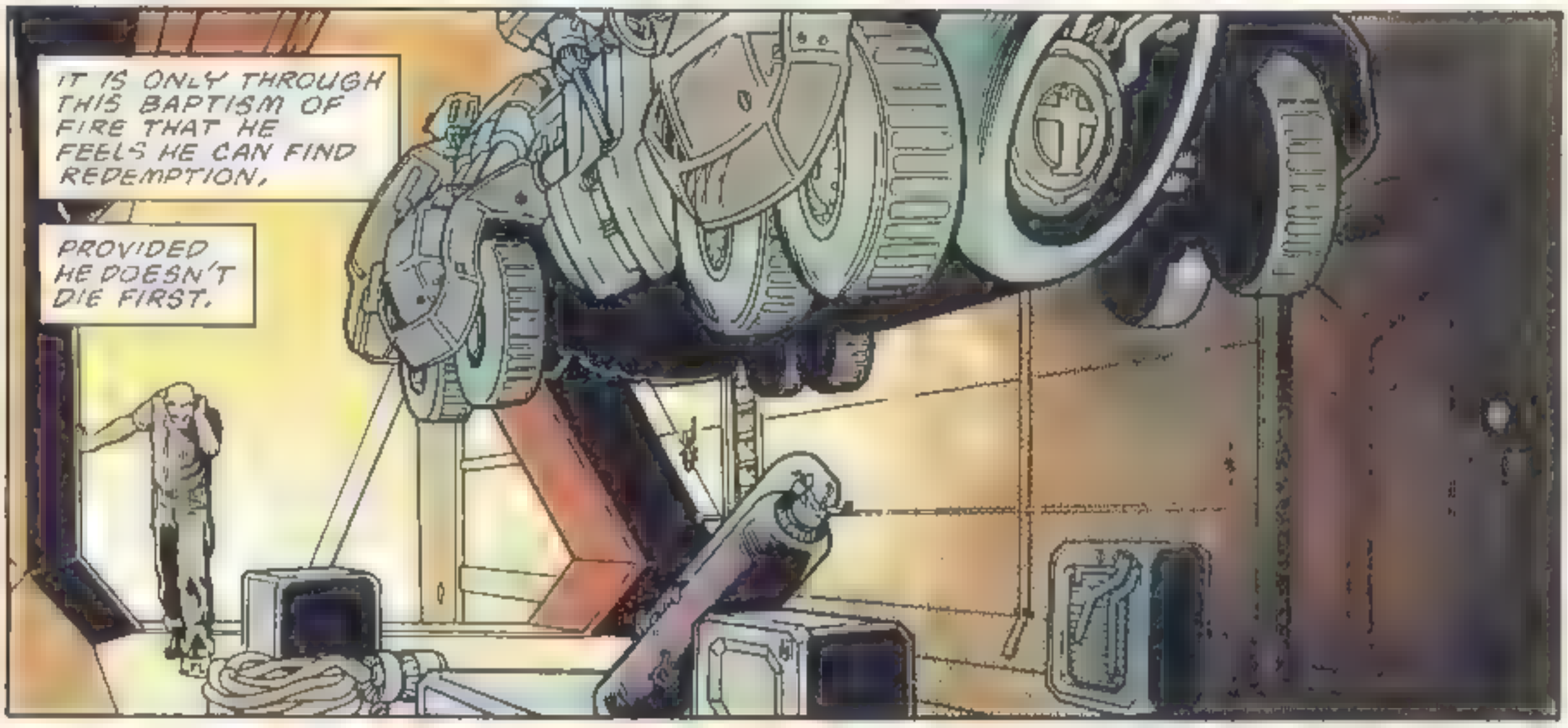

"WE"? YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, GRANT.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, MAJOR. I AM GOING INTO THAT HIVE WITH YOU.

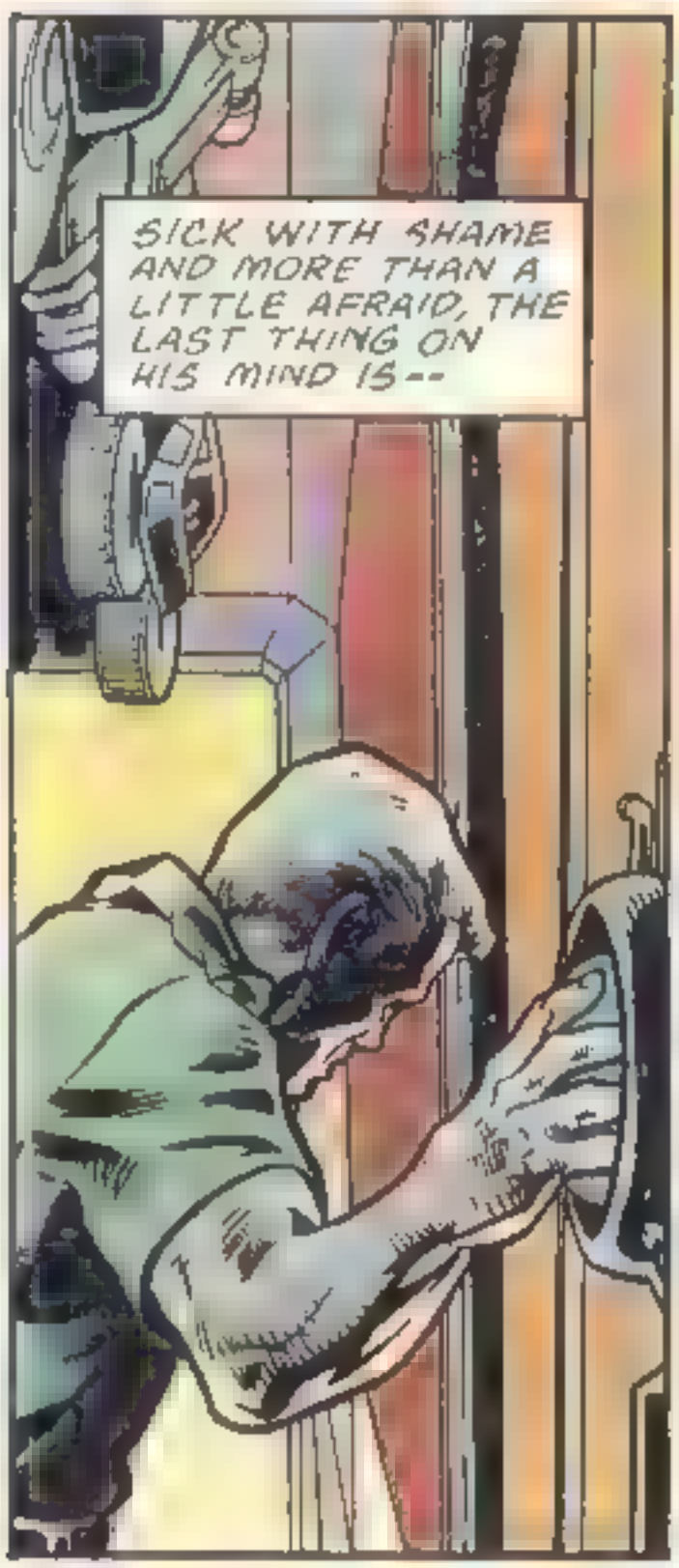
I DON'T WANT ANY CIVILIANS--
SAVE IT, MAJOR!
ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, YOU NEED MANPOWER BADLY.


AND ON A MORAL LEVEL, I NEED TO DO THIS.
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, MAJOR? IF I'M EVER TO LOOK MYSELF IN THE MIRROR AGAIN, I NEED TO DO THIS.

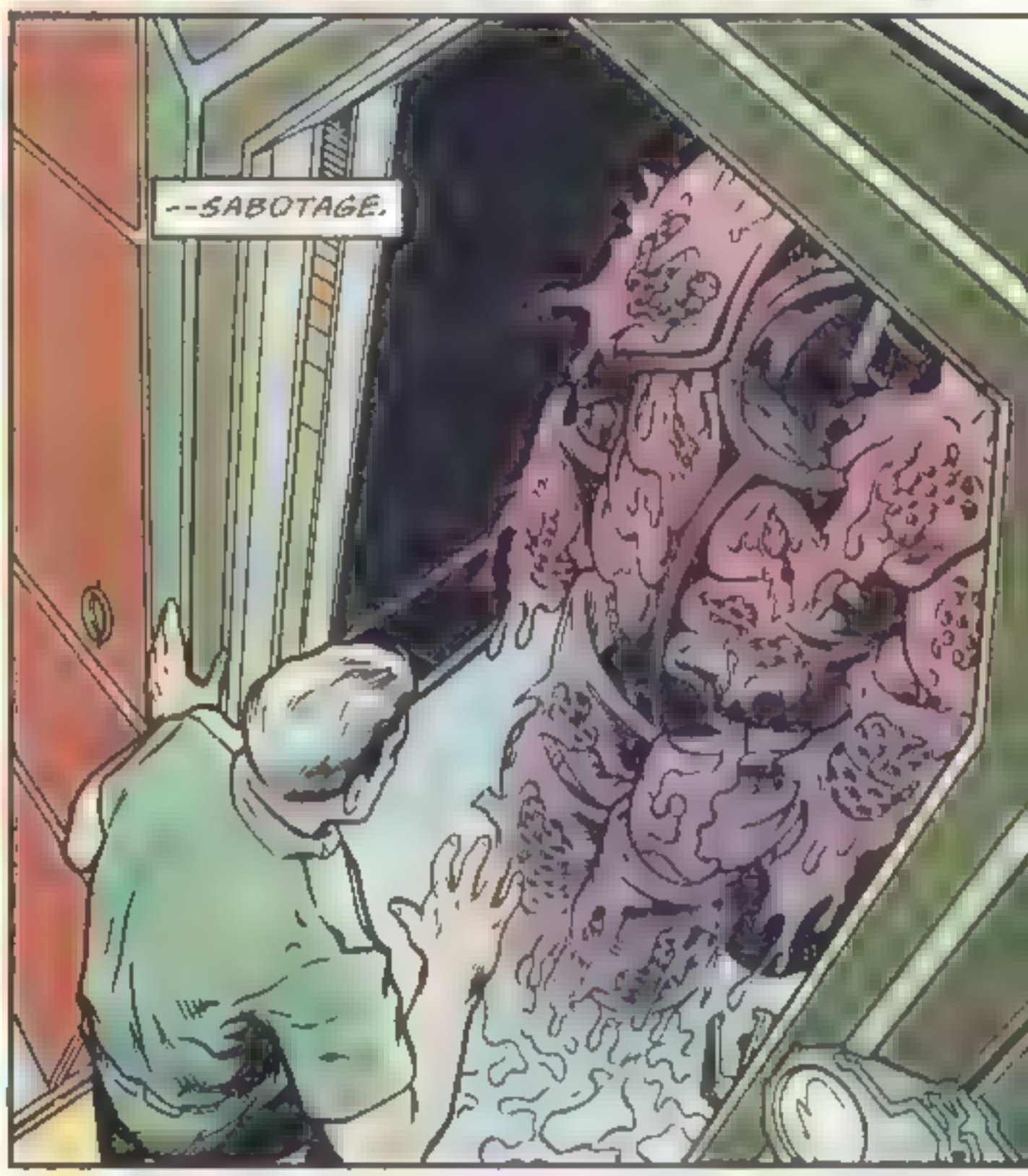

GRANT'S LOGIC IS UNASSAILABLE.


BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SO IS HIS SINCERITY.
THEN YOU'D BETTER SUIT UP PRONTO. YOU'LL FIND THE ARMOR JUST BEHIND THE CARGO DRONE

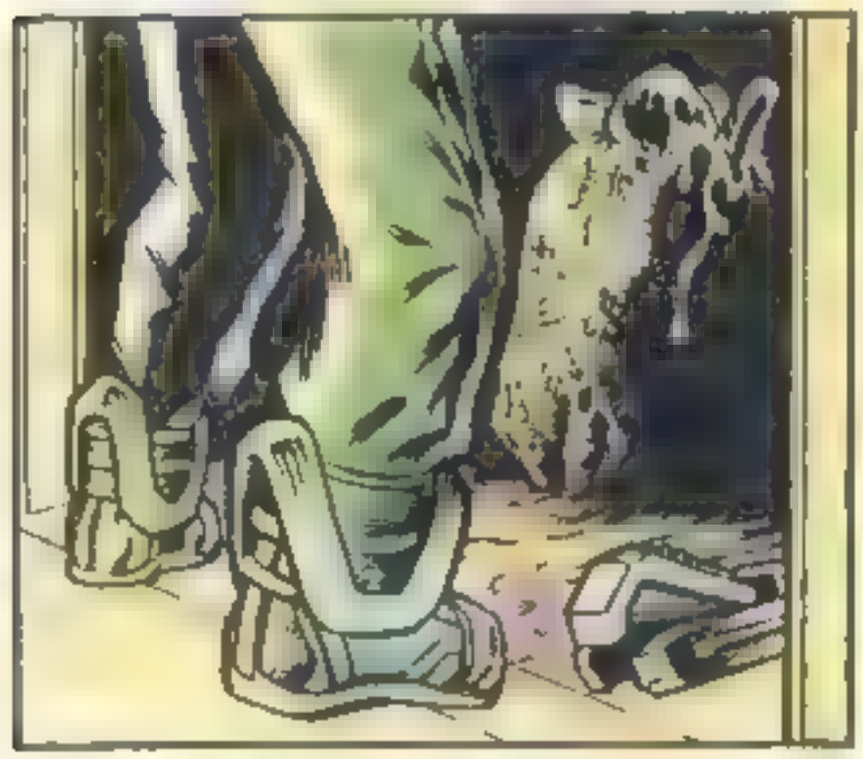

IT IS ONLY THROUGH THIS BAPTISM OF FIRE THAT HE FEELS HE CAN FIND REDEMPTION,
PROVIDED HE DOESN'T DIE FIRST.

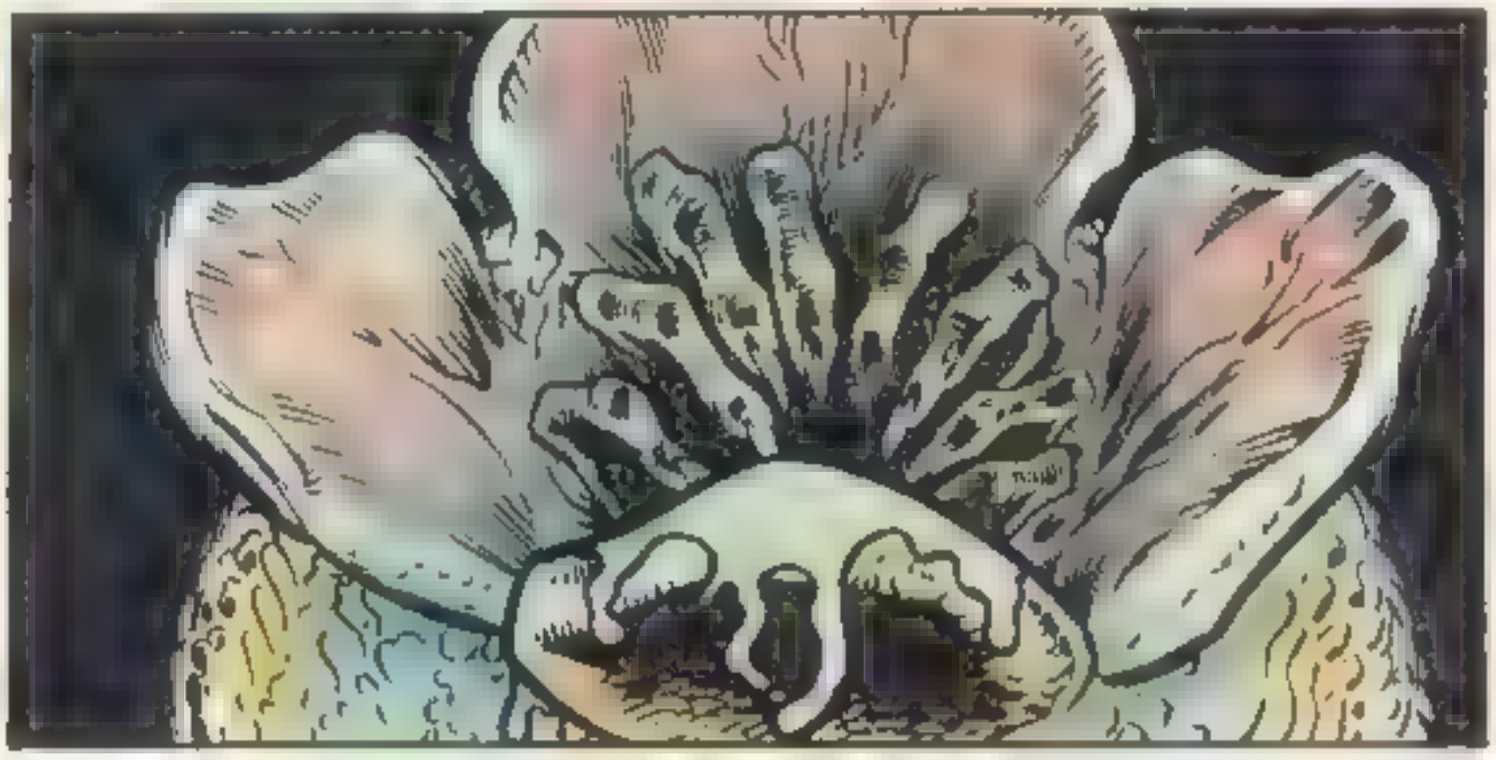

SICK WITH SHAME AND MORE THAN A LITTLE AFRAID, THE LAST THING ON HIS MIND IS--

vvvip


--SABOTAGE.

JUST GREAT!
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT IT NOW. MUST BE ANOTHER SUIT OF ARMOR IN HERE SOMEWHERE.





SCRE

BUG HUNT

SEND MAIL C/O DARK HORSE COMICS 10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Dear Bug Hunters,

"...More Aliens action than all of the other series combined!"

That's how Diamond Distribution described Aliens: Genocide #1. They hit the nail right on the head! This series is for sure going to surpass the first three series. You can already imagine where the story is headed, but I prefer to wait and see. The art is superb! The Willis/Story combination of pencils and inks is magnificent. It's stunning. When I came upon pages four and five the first thing that I yelled out in amazement was "Holy @#$!" I was blown away. It kind of resembles Mark Nelson's art, but it's unique in its own way. Very comic strip-ish in some panels. It's excellent overall.

If I recall correctly (I should, I'm an Aliens and Dark Horse freak), in the first series religious freaks wanted the xenomorphs; second series, it was the government's military branch; third series, nobody wanted them; now druggies and the army (again) want them. Next thing you know, little kids will be wanting them as pets to play with, sheesh!

That's it for now, but like always, I'll be back! More power to the Horse!

Juan C. Diniz
463 Calle Rey Luis
Guaynabo, PR 00969

Actually, based on the reaction to our Aliens cold-cast porcelain figure kit, the next people who want the Aliens will be model collectors. We've taken our little pal to a number of conventions, and he gets rave reviews from both model fans and Aliens fans. Sculptor Randy Bowen has done an amazing job making this puppy chillingly "realistic." And, as for "More Aliens than all the other series combined," take a good look at this issue. When Damon first turned in the art, I took page one around to all the other editors and asked them if they could find Waldo. Anybody out there feeling brave enough to try to count the number of Aliens in this issue?

Dear Barbara,

There I was, shoulder-to-shoulder with Colonial Marines exploring an abandoned probe in deep space. The tension was so thick you could cut it with an old issue of Roachmill! The guy to my left scratched his bald head in anticipation, while the woman to my right proved that women DO need extra protection from perspiration!

Suddenly, we all heard ominous noises in the corridors ahead that broadcast through our minds that we were not alone. Sergeant Richardson motioned to special advisor Schutz, who instructed Corporal Schreck to tell Privates Warner and Stradley to go on ahead and see what the unknown creatures were. Reluctantly, they went on their way. I couldn't help but hear Stradley mutter something about "...If only the Predators were here."

We all waited in that haze of human fear. I sweated so much, I was glad I use Dial. I just wish everybody did. Then, before you could say "John Arcudi!", we all heard the horrified screams of Warner and Stradley!

Everyone tensed for action! Communications officer Tiffany Schlobohm whispered to our comrades on the U.S.S. Dark Horse that, "...Something's coming!"

In that instant, the shadows gave way to those hideous beasts that could only have come from a mind like H.R. Giger's! Everyone was firing wildly at the things, but they were harder to kill than a room full of T-1000 model Terminators!

I saw one of those buggers go down by my feet! Its acidic blood splashed toward my face, but I was saved when I diluted the solution with the nearest base and successfully neutralized it! (Boy, am I glad I took Chemistry Lab!) To my right, an Alien sprang toward Tiffany! I raised my gun to fire but it was too late! Tiffany had already bagged the sucker with a pulse rifle! (Welcome to the '90s!)

Even with the brave acts of heroism all around us, we were doomed! The Aliens slowly encircled us! Hope seemed as impossible as a four-part mini series by Simon Bisley!

Just then, Denis Beauvais shows up with the world's largest eraser! Behind him are Mark Nelson, Sam Kieth, and Damon Willis, all equally equipped! They erased those Aliens faster than an episode of "Sin City!"

Finally, as the dream fades (you knew this had to be a dream, didn't you?), Barbara Kesel appears before me and says, "If you write it, they will print it."

Weird dream, huh? I've got to stop reading all these comic books!

Steven Singer
1400 California Ave.
White Oak, PA 15131

P.S. Aliens: Genocide looks great!

Oh, no, you don't! I'm not gonna fall for any stupid plot like printing a letter that has nothing to do with the current series just because it's funny! No sirree, Bob! Nope, not a chance. Ha! Thought you could slip one by me, dintcha?

Dear Barbara,

Re: Aliens: Genocide #1

A civil war amongst the Aliens, eh? Way cool. But do we see much of it? NOOOOOOOOOOO! Instead, we get the debut of a Trumpesque billionaire who's invented a worse

drug than anabolic steroids. Xeno-Zip is for power nuts and zipheads, and the worst possible side effect (which I won't mind seeing) may end up being the fools on the drugs mutating into Alienesque grotesqueries. May Grant end up the same way!

This is my first look at Damon Willis' pencils, and I am impressed. The quality of the pencils, coupled with Karl Story's inks, nearly equals the efforts of Dorkin and Gil in Predator: Big Game a few months back. By issue 2 or 3 it should be even better. I'll grade this an A-plus nonetheless. Arcudi's usually excellent script isn't quite so — yet. The jury is out for now.

See you in thirty, and watch out for oversized no-pest strips!

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St. #1
Troy, NY 12180

Actually, having the drug mutate people is something we never considered. It would have been a really good idea, though. Just think — mutants are hot, Aliens are hot — we'd have had Alien Mutants! We would have had to title the book X-enocide, though.

Dear Dark Horse Comics,

I love what you've done with your Aliens series. I think there's an element long absent from your storylines. Whatever happened to fear? In the first Alien film, a small crew was scared out of their minds by an unknown creature in the darkness. In all of the recent comics, there have been stories that are mainly action. Nobody's scared of an Alien getting them when they least expect it. Maybe it's because you always have stories with a few hundred Aliens everywhere. Like the Aliens film, it was more action/Sci-Fi than horror beacuse you had all those guns.

Please try to put the fear back into the Alien. It kills better that way.

James Nudd
19940 Mokena St.
Mokena, IL 60448

While Genocide is much more action-oriented than horror, our next Aliens mini-series, Hive, plays off the moodiness you describe. A rich concept like Aliens allows us to explore it in many directions, leading to all kinds of stories. "It kills better that way"? Hmmm. Just what do you mean, James?

Dear Barbara,

I have no idea how you managed to convince Arthur Suydam to contribute the front cover for Aliens: Genocide #1, but I was knocked out by his particular rendition of the Alien. It's the best I've seen since Mark Nelson initally scalded my retinas with his depiction of these hinge-jawed weasels a few years back, and I hope Suydam will provide the covers for the rest of the series as well.

The warring Alien kingdoms was interesting. The Daniel Grant character was a hilarious comics version of Donald Trump, and the contract entered into between Grant and the U.S. military was so damned underhanded, short-sighted, and callous that, in Niles' day and age, things were handled as everyone would have expected.

And, as per the norm, the interior visuals were also very nice. Then again, what's new? Isn't Damon Willis a protegé of Mike Grell's, or am I thinking of someone else?

See ya at Munden's. Or Chez Lesek's.

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Rd.
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

You're thinking of Dameon Willich. Our artist is Damon Willis, who has the same name as a character in the movie "Little Man Tate," but isn't him, either. And, as for getting Arthur Suydam to do the covers, it was easy. He called and asked if he could do covers for the book. I said yes. Here they are. Wasn't that easy? But, not only is Arthur doing covers for this series — check out his covers for Batman Vs. Predator and the upcoming Alien 3 movie adaptation.

Dear Barbara,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for finally getting the new Aliens series out. With the opening date for Alien 3 constantly changing, it's good to know that I'll be supplied with a fair amount of Aliens material to tide me over until it comes out. Now, on to Aliens: Genocide. There are things I like about it, and some things I don't like about it. I like the first page with the Alien all curled up and filled with confusion — that really touched me. I also liked the concept of red Aliens, because I've always thought of Aliens as ants, in a way. I love the battle scene — very stimulating. The thought of hundreds of thousands of these killing machines going at each other for dominance was very well portrayed (is it me, or were the red Aliens winning?).

The artistry on the Aliens' homeworld was great, very detailed and brightly colored. I didn't, however, like the pictures portraying Earth. To be quite frank, I thought they looked cheap; unlike Denis Beauvais's art, the backgrounds are always blank and not filled out or structured. I got a kick out of John Arcudi's story. Very interesting, except for one huge flaw — how long is this after Aliens: Earth War? I mean, Earth was overrun by Aliens and then was totally nuked. If you ever saw Threads or another realistic movie about nuclear holocaust, you have to agree that there wouldn't be much of Earth left that was habitable. Compound that with the remnants of the Alien invasion, and you've got some serious explaining to do.

I don't want to leave on a sour note, so John and Damon, overall I enjoyed your comic and it will be a fine addition to my vast collection. I have collected Aliens, Terminator, and Predator for over four years, and I feel as if I've grown up with you. Aliens is one-third of my life and without the comics, a major piece of my love for the concept would be lost. I would like to say thank you for five years of dream fulfillment.

Until Mark Verheiden writes a bad story (hard to imagine), make my second family Dark Horse!

Emotionally yours,
James Stambaugh
1004 Springfield dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

The mystery of Earth's survival is explored in length in the two-part Aliens story in DHP #56. For those of you who may have missed that issue (you're all regular DHP readers, of course, and it was just a momentary lapse, I'm

sure!), here's the answer in the words of the President and Captain McQuade:

President: "It was my understanding that Doctor Orona's stockpile of bombs was going to leave Earth uninhabitable for years to come."

McQuade: "Indeed, had they exploded, the resultant fallout from Doctor Orona's bombs would have wiped all life from the face of the Earth. Fortunately, Doctor Orona made no secret of his intentions, broadcasting his message even into deep space. We believe that the 'pilot' of the terraforming vessel saw that message. Apparently it circumvented Orona's detonator and, as we learned later, removed all the warheads of the fusion bombs in the stockpile. Whether the 'pilot' was gathering material for its plasma generator or just insuring that another lunatic wouldn't threaten his new home, we don't know."

In other words: big bombs, no fallout, the elephant alien's terraforming fixed most of the rest. You can still see signs of rebuilding in these pages, and small pockets of Alien infestation still exist, but the Earth's mostly okay at the time of the start of Genocide.

Aliens crew,

I am almost very impressed. Going from front to back, the cover of Genocide was outstanding, and the interior visuals excellent, very European, I like that. Story-wise, this new book seems solid, but we'll find out soon. My only problems are that the letters pages are too glib, but that's a matter of taste. Also, a general question: Why is Mike Richardson writing so many of the stories (Aliens Vs. Predator, Terminator: Secondary Objectives, Aliens: Genocide) and having others script them? Is it a corporate or "rights" decision?

However, I do have a theme here. Due to the fact that you have jettisoned the hyper-realistic visual thematics of the films, I believe that you will probably receive a sizable amount of negative mail. I just wish to point out that this is a new series and should be judged on its own merits. Many complained when Mr. Kieth illustrated Earth War, but it was a matter of switching drastically the visual motifs in the middle of a trilogy. I believe Mr. Kieth's art was excellent and did pay excellent homage to the type of '50's comics that inspired the first film, but I must agree that it was a direct violation of the series' contemporary visual style and did sacrifice much of the built-up tensions. This new series comes from a totally new sensibility. I like it, also I think that the smooth-headed Aliens (Giger-designed) are much more frightening than the ripple-headed ones (Winston-designed) and it's good to see them back, if only temporarily.

By the way, you have used Sam Kieth and now I understand you are using Kelley Jones to do art for Aliens. You seem to be stealing the Sandman's visual crew. Why not invite Neil Gaiman to ride the dark horse and provide a ride for us within the pages of Aliens, or any other property. I mean, if you could get Clive Barker to do an original work, then you can do anything.

Abe J. Flores
1107 Delaware St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

But, Abe, if we have Neil Gaiman write an Aliens series, then what will we do to keep Mike Richardson off the streets? Actually, there's no corporate motive for Mike's working on so many series; he just keeps coming up with so many more great ideas than he has time to flesh out, so we call in crack troops like John Arcudi to finish bringing these monster stories to life.

Dear Bug Hunters,

Aliens: Genocide looks like it's going to kick ass and take no names.

Egg-hatching, face-hugging, chest-bursting, head-chomping, acid-burnig, rapid-firing action like never before!

Sorry — got carried away.

Daniel Grant's disparaging attitude toward the young heroine of the story was disgusting; I've got a feeling he's going to end up monster-meat by the end; maybe Arcudi'll set him up with one of the two Alien Queens.

Looking forward to the next issue.

And thanks for shipping issue #1 early!

Be seeing you,
Steven Robinson
Chicago, IL

Hey, when it's done, it's done. I say ship it and enjoy the mail. And, Steve — the "young heroine" of the story is a seasoned Major. She can handle Grant.

That's it until the finale slaps you in the face like an exploded donor clone: Wraparound cover by Arthur Suydam, repeated inside as a mini-poster sans text, and 26 pages of major Aliens action! See you there!

— Barbara Kesel

Flogging a Dead Horse

In recent months I've been questioned a number of times on Dark Horse's stand with regard to several incidents involving questions of First Amendment rights. These incidents concern the seizure and censorship of printed material. I've answered these questions in print in response to queries from other publishers, and I've sent out private letters to individuals who've written me asking some of the same questions. I've also answered them at numerous conventions throughout the past year, including a spirited statement with Frank Miller during the Dark Horse panel at the San Diego Comic Con last July. It seems that the time has come to use this forum to restate that position for the growing body of Dark Horse readers.

Dark Horse Comics publishes a wide variety of material for a wide range of ages and tastes. Comic book creators and publishers share with other communicators—be they book publishers, motion picture and television producers, political candidates, or concerned parents—the Constitutionally guaranteed freedom to speak, write, and publish what we choose. In the marketplace of ideas, illustrated materials such as comic books enjoy the same rights as other media and cannot lawfully be put under any different scrutiny.

In the words of Justice William O. Douglas, "It is one thing for parents ... to be actively involved. It is quite a different matter for the state to become implicated as a censor." It is dangerous to set up police or state officials as the judges of what other people, young or old, should read. The First Amendment was designed to keep the hands of the government and of state officials off the printing presses of America and off the distribution systems for printed literature.

Hard Boiled ™ & © 1991 Frank Miller and Geof Darrow. All rights reserved.

The United States Constitution protects free speech by protecting works that have serious literary or artistic value, regardless of whether the government or even a majority of the people approve of the ideas the works represent. Dark Horse Comics publishes such works, and people everywhere should be concerned when a police department anywhere in the United States makes wholesale seizures of books from the shelves of a bookseller.

Dark Horse Comics deplores the violation of any U.S. citizen's Constitutional rights, whether they be a retailer, distributor, or individual, and Dark Horse will pursue the appropriate avenues, including the support of the activities of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, in order to ensure those guaranteed rights.

—Mike Richardson

Mike Richardson • publisher

Neil Hankerson • vice-president of operations

Randy Stradley • executive editor

Barbara Kesel • managing editor

Jerry Prosser, Diana Schutz, Chris Warner • editorial staff

Bob Schreck • marketing director

Kris Young • marketing assistant

Cece Cutsforth • art director

Chris Chalenor • production manager

Steven Birch, Cary Grazzini, Ray Gruen, Carolyn Megyesi, Jack Pollock, Steve Posey, Monty Sheldon, Sean Tierney • production

Brad Horn • controller

Debbie Byrd, Tiffany Schlobohm • operations

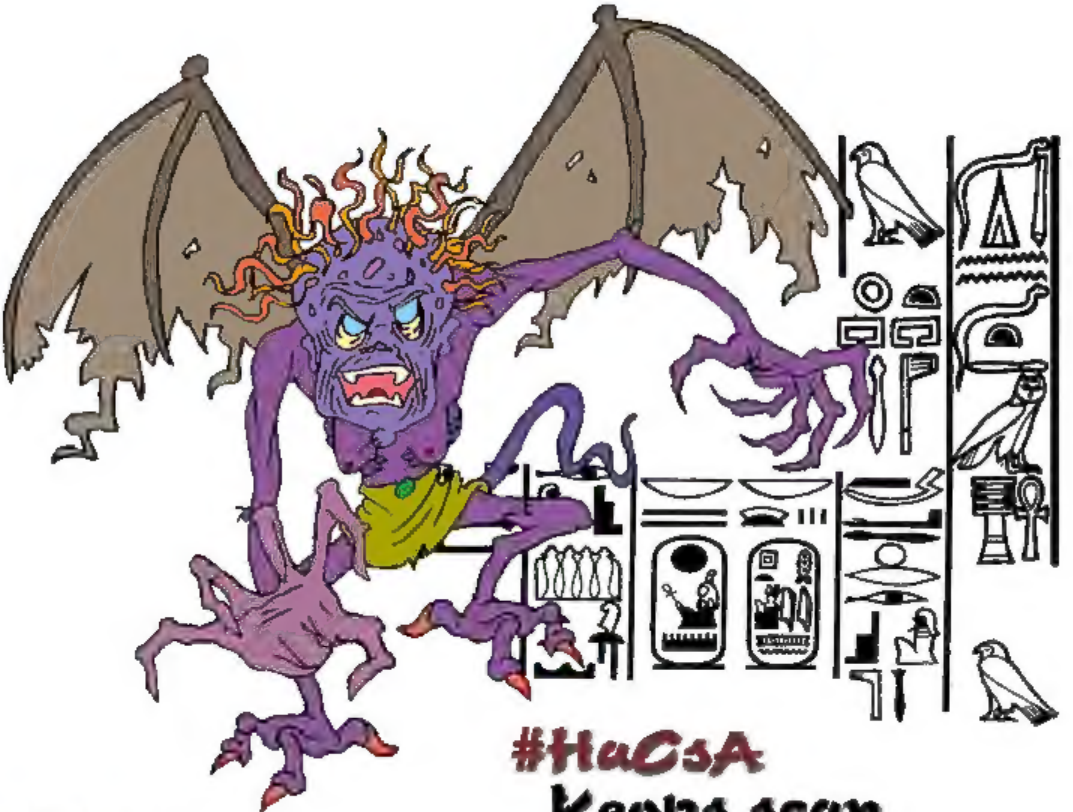
CHECKLIST

☐ **SHIPPING DECEMBER 3**
Dark Horse Presents #57
Venus Wars #9
Aliens Genocide #2

☐ **SHIPPING DECEMBER 10**
Cheval Noir #25
Predator Cold War #4
Terminator Enemy Within #2
Aliens vs. Predator TPB

☐ **SHIPPING DECEMBER 17**
Billi 99 #4
Badlands #6
Concrete #4
The Thing #1

☐ **SHIPPING DECEMBER 24**
Almuric #4
Mask #0
Star Wars #1



art by: Krissius
gfx by: Keops